



Lata Mangeshkar passes away

India's Nightingale cremated with full state honours at Shivaji Park in Mumbai

Mumbai, Feb 6 (IANS) : Legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar has passed away, her family announced on Sunday morning. She was 92. She was admitted to the Intensive Care Unit of the Breach Candy Hospital in Mumbai in January. She was also undergoing treatment for pneumonia.

In November 2019, Mangeshkar was admitted to the same hospital after she complained of difficulty in breathing and was diagnosed with pneumonia. She was discharged after 28 days.

Amid chanting of vedic hymns and elaborate rituals performed by Hindu priests, legendary singer Bharat Ratna Lata Mangeshkar's mortal remains were consigned to flames in a public funeral with full state honours, held at Shivaji Park, here on Sunday evening.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and family members, Deputy CM Ajit Pawar, State Cabinet Ministers, NCP President Sharad Pawar, and other top dignitaries along with the bereaved Mangeshkar clan were in attendance.

After the mourners paid their last respects to Lata's body draped in the National Tricolour on a flower-bedecked pedestal, the Indian Army, Indian Navy and Indian Air Force contingents sounded the Last Post and accorded a salute as the gathering stood in attention.

The National Flag was carefully removed from her body, ceremonially folded and solemnly handed over to Lata's nephew, Adinath Mangeshkar, who handed it to the other grieving family members present there.

Thereafter, a retinue of over half-a-dozen priests took charge and got down to the task of performing the Hindu rituals for the departed singer, along with a few male family members present alongside.

Shortly after the religious rituals were completed, the Mumbai Police contingent honoured her with another gun salute booming above the Shivaji Park.

Then, the sole brother among the five sibling, Hridaynath Mangeshkar stepped forward with other family members and he lit the funeral pyre with grief writ on his face - as his legendary Lata became immortal in a cloud of smoke - around 7.15 p.m., 11 hours after she breathed her last at 8.12 a.m. in the morning.

Earlier, Prime Minister Modi bid the final adieu to his beloved 'Badi Didi' (elder sister), and was among the first of the VVIPs at the venue where her body was kept for people to pay their last respects at Shivaji Park.

He was accompanied by Governor Koshyari, CM Thackeray, and other dignitaries like Deputy CM Ajit Pawar and Union Minister Piyush Goyal, many of whom enjoyed close family relations with the Mangeshkars.

The PM later walked over to the enclosure where the entire Mangeshkar clan including Lata's sisters Asha Bhosale, Usha Mangeshkar, Meena Mangeshkar and Hridaynath Mangeshkar as well as grandchildren and other family members were present and offered his condolences to them.

Modi also briefly interacted with Thackeray, Tourism Minister Aaditya Thackeray, Leader of Opposition Devendra Fadnis, with Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar, Supriya Sule, NCP President Sharad Pawar, MNS President Raj Thackeray and Vinod Tawade.

All the Maha Vikas Aghadi ministers, leaders of Shiv Sena, NCP, Congress, several MPs, MLAs, were also present at the venue.

After interacting briefly, Modi patted Uddhav Thackeray warmly, signifying he should take care of his health - as the CM has been suffering from a chronic spinal issue since the past three months.

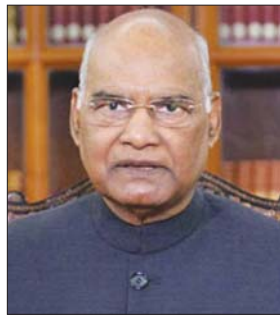
Bharat Ratna Sachin Tendulkar - who had very close ties with the Bharat Ratna Lata - also turned up with his wife Dr Anjali and paid his last respects to the deceased singer.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid his last respects to legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar at Mumbai's Shivaji Park on Sunday evening. Bharat Ratna awardee Lata Mangeshkar died at Mumbai's Breach Candy Hospital earlier on Sunday. PM Modi paid floral tribute to Lata Mangeshkar at Shivaji Park and performed a parikrama [circle around in reverence] of her mortal remains. The PM expressed his condolences to Lata Mangeshkar's sister and singer Asha Bhosle, and the rest of her family.

Her melodies will remain immortal: President

New Delhi, Feb 6 (IANS): President Ram Nath Kovind said that her demise is "heart-breaking", adding that Lata Mangeshkar's accomplishments will remain incomparable. Calling her an "exceptional human being", the President stated that Lata Mangeshkar was an artist born "once in centuries".



Her voice will always stay with us: PM Modi

New Delhi, Feb 6 (IANS): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday remembered legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar as he was addressing a virtual rally in Uttar Pradesh's Mathura, Agra and Bulandshahr. He said though the legendary singer has left for the heavenly abode, her melodious voice will always stay behind. "Lata Didi has gone to the heavenly abode. Many people, like me, will proudly say that they had a close connection with her. Wherever you go, you can always find her loved ones. Her melodious voice will always stay with us, I pay tributes to her with a heavy heart," the Prime Minister said, beginning his election speech.

Maharashtra govt declares public holiday today

Mumbai, Feb 6 (IANS): The Maharashtra government has declared a public holiday on Monday as a mark of respect for legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar who died in Mumbai on Sunday. The state government has also declared a two-day state mourning. "The state government has declared a public holiday in the state on Monday, February 7, 2022, to mourn the demise of Bharat Ratna Lata Mangeshkar," the Office of Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray said in a statement.

Several top Bollywood personalities including superstar Shah Rukh Khan, Aamir Khan, Javed Akhtar,

Govt declares two-day state mourning

New Delhi, Feb 6 (IANS): The central government has declared two days of state mourning as a mark of respect for singer Lata Mangeshkar who died in Mumbai early on Sunday. "Government of India has decided that as a mark of respect, two days of State Mourning will be observed from Feb 6 to 7. During State Mourning National Flag will be flown at half-mast from Feb 6 to 7 throughout India and there will be no official entertainment. It has also been decided that State Funeral will be accorded to Kumari Lata Mangeshkar," a statement from the Ministry of Home Affairs said.

Shankar Mahadevan, Anuradha Paudwal, Madhur Bhandarkar, Shradha Kapoor, Ranbir

CM, Governor condole death of Lata Mangeshkar, Two-day state mourning in Jharkhand



Mail News Service

Ranchi, Feb 6: Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren has expressed deep condolences on the demise of Bharat Ratna Swara Kokila Lata Mangeshkar.

Terming it as an irreparable loss to the country, Hemant Soren said that even though Lata ji is not among us, but her voice will always rule our heart.

"I am saddened by the death of Lata ji. This is an irreparable loss to the country and the countrymen. Everyone's eyes are moist today. She had lent her melodious voice to about thirty thousand songs in different languages. Her voice was her identity. Today, due to his not being among us, a caravan of notes has come to a standstill. But, she will always rule in our hearts with her voice. Even though Lata ji is no more in this world, her songs will always remind her. May God place the departed virtuous soul at his feet and give strength to his numerous admirers to bear the loss."

Jharkhand Governor Ramesh Bais has expressed deep sorrow and condolence on the passing away of Swara Kokila Bharat Ratna Lata Mangeshkar. He said that Lata ji had established an indelible identity in the whole world with her singing. Her incomparable contribution to Indian music will always be remembered. The passing of ardent patriot and inspirational personality Lata ji is an irreparable loss for the entire countrymen and the art world. The Governor said that the music lovers all over the world are sad today. Her melodious voice will always resonate among us.

Meanwhile, Jharkhand government will also observe two-day state mourning on the death of the legendary singer. Following instructions of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India the Cabinet Secretariat and coordination department of Jharkhand has informed that due to death of Lata Mangeshkar it has been decided by the Government of India to observe two-day state mourning from 06 February 2022 to 07 February 2022.

On the said date, all the buildings of Jharkhand state where the national flag is hoisted regularly, the national flag will remain half-masted and no state function will be organized. (W-rg)

(Rishi) Kapoor, and others were present at the funeral.

Millions of ordinary Mumbaikars and other Indians mourned for the departed singer at the funeral venue and at their homes in the country and globally, marking the end of a musical era symbolised by their favourite Lata Mangeshkar.

Born into a prominent musical family, Mangeshkar entered the entertainment industry when she was just 13 years old. She juggled acting and singing in Marathi films. She has also composed music for a few Marathi films, and went on to win Maharashtra state government's award for best music director in 1965 for the film Sadhi Manase. She also turned producer for a few films.

IEDs recovered

Dhanbad, Feb 6 (IANS): Two powerful IEDs, weighing 10 kg each, were recovered by security forces in Jharkhand's Dhanbad district, police said on Sunday.

SPARKLERS



Have full faith in the Almighty. A devotee of God always remains clam, brave and fearless. H. H. Swami Avdeshanand Giri

Rahul declares Channi as Congress CM face for Punjab polls

Ludhiana, Feb 6 (IANS) Just two weeks ahead of Assembly polls in the Congress-ruled Punjab, party leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday announced incumbent Charanjit Singh Channi as the party's chief ministerial face for the polls.



State party chief Navjot Singh Sidhu, who was in the race, hugged Channi on the stage as Gandhi announced his name after over 45 minutes of his speech, televised across the 117 Assembly seats.

Political observers believe the decision of the Congress to go to the polls in the state, which is witnessing a five-cornered contest, under the leadership of Channi, the state's first Dalit Chief Minister, is to woo the Dalit Sikh votes that are 32 per cent in the state.

"It is Punjab's decision. I did not decide. I asked workers, candidates, MLAs, people, youth of Punjab. What people said has led me to my final decision," said Gandhi during his address at the 'Aawaz Punjab Di' virtual rally.

Ban on rallies to continue, says EC, more relaxations for physical meetings

New Delhi, Feb 6 (IANS): The Election Commission on Sunday reiterated that the ban on physical rallies and roadshows will continue to remain in effect in poll-bound states, but granted more relaxations for physical public meetings in indoor halls and for outdoor meetings.

"Restrictions regarding outdoor meeting/indoor meetings/rallies will be further relaxed subject to condition that the number of persons attending the indoor/outdoor meetings/rallies will be limited to maximum of 50 per cent of the capacity of Indoor halls and 30 per cent of the open ground capacity or as fixed by DEO as per

requirement of the social distancing norms and whichever is less," the EC said in a statement.

"Ban on road shows, Pad-Yatras, cycle/bike/vehicle rallies and processions will remain as before. Maximum number of persons permissible for door-to-door campaigning fixed at 20 will also remain as before. Ban on campaign between 8 PM and 8 AM will also continue as before," added.

On January 31, the EC had further extended the ban on physical rallies and roadshows till February 11. The commission also held a meeting with the Health Ministry on Saturday to assess the prevailing Covid situation.

Jharkhand ATS seizes cash over Rs 32 lakhs

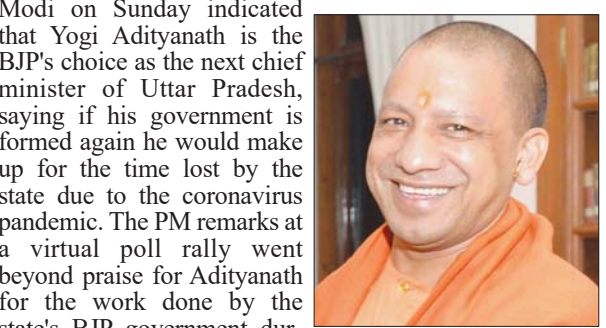
Ranchi, Feb 6 (IANS): Jharkhand Anti Terrorist Squad (ATS) has arrested one person for allegedly being involved in the extortion business. As per a statement issued by the state's ATS, the accused has been identified as Sandeep Kumar, a key member of gangster Aman Shrivastava's gang.

"He has been working with gangsters for the last 12-13 years," said the ATS.

A cash amount of Rs 32,08,300 collected by extortion and important papers related to the gang's extortion business have been recovered from his possession, added the ATS.

PM Modi bats for Adityanath as UP's next CM

New Delhi, Feb 6 (IANS): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday indicated that Yogi Adityanath is the BJP's choice as the next chief minister of Uttar Pradesh, saying if his government is formed again he would make up for the time lost by the state due to the coronavirus pandemic. The PM remarks at a virtual poll rally went beyond praise for Adityanath for the work done by the state's BJP government during his term, and appeared to settle the debate over the party's CM face. He lashed out at the main opposition, the Samajwadi Party, criticising it over the law and order when it was in power just before Adityanath's government was sworn in. The PM hailed what the BJP government has accomplished in the state and said if there hadn't been the pandemic over the past two years, Adityanath would have done even better at the job of providing homes for the poor under a central scheme. The PM said he believed that the people of Uttar Pradesh will give such an overwhelming majority to the BJP for the coming five years that Adityanath will get strength to accomplish such tasks.



Ayushman card camp organised at Tuiladungri



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Feb 6: A one-day Ayushman card distribution camp was organized in collaboration with Swami Vivekananda Jan Kalyan Samiti to get the benefits of the Prime Minister Jan Arogya Yojana, India's biggest insurance scheme, the ambitious plan of the Modi government at the Shitala Mata Temple, Tuiladungri.

The camp was started by Dinesh Kumar, former district president of BJP Jamshedpur. Modi started the scheme of Ayushman card for the treatment of the poor and set a target of connecting every person to the insurance scheme of 5 lakhs. BJP workers are working to ensure that the scheme reaches the last person while performing their duty. Camps in different areas are proving to be helpful in this. Srinu Rao and Abhishek Dey of Swami Vivekananda Jan Kalyan Samiti are making a significant contribution to the free Ayushman card making and distribution camp. (W-pb)

Local people cleans drain at Bagbera



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Feb 6: Under the joint initiative of Panchayat Samiti member Jharna Mishra and Deputy Mukhya Sunil Gupta, many local people including District Councillor Kishore Yadav have got a drain cleaned.

Local people have demanded from Block Development Officer Praveen Kumar, BPRO and Panchayat Secretary to remove the pile of garbage from the drain. The officials had assured to get it removed from the Panchayat fund soon. Due to lack of cleanliness, the dirty water of the drain was flowing on the main road. The local people were facing a lot of difficulties in commuting on this road. They complained about this many times from the Block Development Officer to the District Deputy Commissioner, but the drain was not cleaned.

Finally, with the help of local people, get the entire drain cleaned at your own expense. Bhavnath Singh, Manoj Rai, Vinay Singh, Ramsurat Yadav, Pawan Srivastava etc. contributed to this cleanliness campaign with their personal expenses. (W-pb)

Sports competition organised on Saraswati Puja



Seraikela, Feb 6: Balak Sangh Saraswati Puja Committee organized sports competition among children on the occasion of Saraswati Puja in Manik Bazar village under Itakudar Panchayat. Several children from the village attended the competition. Five sporting events were held during the competition including Maths race, Paragraph writing, musical chair, drawing and dancing. (W-mb)

Lata Mangeshkar's unforgettable connection with Jharkhand's Jhumri Telaiya

Ranchi, Feb 6: Jhumri Telaiya sounds familiar to music lovers? Nestled in nature's lap in Jharkhand, this quaint hamlet, that derives its identity from an enchanting lake, came to fame in the early 1950s when Radio Ceylon and All India Radio's Vividh Bharati used to be inundated with demands to play numbers, sung by the legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar.

As news of the 'Indian Nightingale' who defined music for generations, breathing her last, reached this small town, loudspeakers installed at marquees to worship Goddess Saraswati started playing 'Lata Didi's' numbers, as did most of the roadside eateries, small shops and establishments. People huddled on streets talking about the legends death with moist eyes.

Despite television replacing the radio in most

of India, roadside eateries, small shops and establishments still have a passion for radio sets in this town, about 165 km from the state capital Ranchi.

This was the town where countless people tuned-in to hear their favourite Lata songs, with many thumping their tables the moment announcers at Radio Ceylon or Vividh Bharti such as Ameen Sayani announced "Agli farmaish hai Jhumri Telaiya se" (the next request is from Jhumri Telaiya).

According to Rajiv Ranjan, who quit the Indian Revenue Service and is now a barrister based in Ontario, Canada, the truth behind Jhumri Telaiya's, fondness for music, is tied to its economic history and discovery of vast deposits of mica in the region, in 1890.

"The Mica tycoons of Jhumri Telaiya, Chattu Ram Bhadani and Horil



Ram Bhadani, controlled nearly 1,000 mines in the region. These rich and influential businessmen spearheaded the transformation of Jhumri Telaiya from an obscure, sleepy village into a mining powerhouse with a fondness for music. The famous Bhadani family, even got Suraiya, (a well-known Bollywood playback singer) from Bombay, to perform at a concert there, as also Ustad Bisillah Khan," said Ranjan.

When radios became popular, sending song requests on postcards became a major pastime in this village.

A mine owner from Jhumri Telaiya, Rameshwar Prasad Barnwal started mailing postcards with 'farmaishain' (song requests), to Radio Ceylon daily for Ameen Sayani's 'Binaca Geetmala' program. "Because Barnwal was a regular mailer, his name started appearing regularly in the requests announced in the

show. This motivated other residents of Jhumri Telaiya to send in their requests as well," said Ranjan.

Soon the fad took over the entire town, radio lovers in Jhumri Telaiya formed a little radio listeners' club and started competing among themselves to send out the most song requests in a day or month. A leading industrialist of the region, Rahul Modi, whose grandfather Rameshwar Modi was a leading mica trader then, said: "My grandfather and others used to bet with each other on whose name would be announced on a given day in the music requests program."

Modi said most of the song demands were for Lata Mangeshkar numbers. "It is a sad day for the region. It is such a great loss Jhumri Telaiya and Lata Didi songs are inseparable." Dr Deepak Kumar, a

leading doctor with a UN body reminisced: "Jhumri Telaiya has its identity due to radio and Lata Ji's songs. Radio was prohibited in the hostel of Sainik School, Telaiya, but we used to manage to somehow listen to her songs and Jhumri Telaiya's name. At that time it used to be part of Hazaribag district."

Vimal Kumar Singh, Director, Ambika Singh Engicom Pvt Ltd who also studied at Sainik School Telaiya said: "Lata Ji's demise is shocking for entire Telaiya." According to Ranjan, in 1957, when All India Radio resumed broadcasting old Hindi Songs on their Vividh Bharti program, they received hundreds of requests from this quaint town. To save labour, the channel printed the request format on postcards where the person was only required to fill song details by hand.

10 resolutions passed in meeting of Press Club

Mail News Service

Seraikela, Feb 6: The Foundation Day of The Press Club of Seraikela-Kharsawan will be celebrated on 4th April with a solemn ceremony. A total of 10 resolutions were passed in the said meeting held under the chairmanship of senior member Sanjay Mishra at Circuit House in Seraikela. Happiness was expressed on the registration of The Press Club Seraikela-Kharsawan in the Society Act and on organizing the successful annual Van Bhoj cum Honor Ceremony. It was decided that the Disciplinary Committee



and Election Steering Committee would be constituted in the next meeting.

On the occasion, three journalists who joined The Press Club of Seraikela Kharsawan, Bhaskar Mishra, Sumangal Kundu

alias Kebu Da and Anant Kumar Mahato were welcomed as new members. It was said that all the members would be linked with the benefits of ESIC at the earliest. Manmohan Singh Rajput, Ramzan Ansari, Sanjeev Kumar

Mehta, Sudesh Kumar, Rash Behari Mandal, Ajay Mahto, Suman Modak, Ravikant Gope, Naveen Pradhan, Ashish Kumar Jha, Pramod Kumar Singh and Sunil Kumar Gupta were mainly present in the meeting. (W-pb)

Journalists mourn death of Lata Mangeshkar

Mail News Service

Seraikela, Feb 6: Following the death of Lata Mangeshkar, a condolence meeting was organized at the local circuit house by The Press Club of Seraikela Kharsawan. Presiding over the President of The Press Club of Seraikela Kharsawan, Manmohan Singh Rajput, payed tribute to the late Lata Mangeshkar by observing a two-minute silence on the occasion, praying for the peace of the soul of Late Lata Mangeshkar. Speaking on the occasion, the speaker said that the death of late Lata Mangeshkar is an irreparable loss to the vocal world of the country. (W-pb)



Ambulance service launched in Parsudih

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Feb 6: On the initiative of Bangabandhu organization, an ambulance service commenced in Parsudih on Sunday. The ambulance was launched by chief guest, Dr Sahir Pal in the presence of other distinguished guests who included Achintam Ghosh, Shrota Das Gupta, Raj Kumar Singh, Sudipto De Rana, Sanjeev Chaudhary, Sanjay Chowdhury, Purvi Ghosh, Dr NR Singh, Dr Shadab, Dr Renu Sharma, Advocate Guljer, Barnali Chakraborty, Vinod De, Sanjeev Acharya,

Rajesh Roy, Ashok Bhowmik, Ashok Dutta, Diloy Bose, Indrajit Ghosh, Pampa Mukherjee, Subroto Barua among others.

On the same occasion, a wheelchair was presented to a physically challenged child by Lions Club executive, Shrota Dasgupta. Executive of Bangabandhu organization, Aparna Guha stated that it was after a lot of effort that an ambulance service was launched today for the benefit of the people of Parsudih. The programme was anchored by social activist Arijit Sarkar and the vote of thanks was offered by Amitabh Chatterjee.



Tata Motors presents two vaccine vans to district



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Feb 6: The district administration got another shot in the arm in its battle against COVID infection when the Tata motors management handed two vaccination vans in the presence of Deputy Commissioner Suraj Kumar and Vaccination Cell's Senior Officer and SDM Dhalbhum Sandeep Kumar Meena.

Director DRDA Saurabh Sinha and District Transport Officer Dinesh Ranjan were also present on the occasion. Deputy Commissioner, Suraj Kumar, while thanking the Tata Motors management stated, "we have been

receiving allround cooperation from all sections of society since the initial COVID-19 wave. Tata Motors' presentation of two vaccination vans will add thrust to the campaign by enabling the administration to speed up our drive and provide door-to-door inoculation."

The East Singhbhum DC appealed to citizens not to let down their guard and follow the COVID protocols for the viral infection had not been absolutely eliminated. He said that those who had not yet availed vaccine doses should do so to protect themselves, their families and localities against COVID infection.

Tax payers to reveal source of income with ITR forms: CA RK Vyas

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Feb 6: Post budget seminar on the effects of Union Budget was jointly organised by Singhbhum Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) and Jamshedpur Chartered Accountant Society in Chamber Bhawan on Saturday.

Seminar was organized in memory of former Vice-President (Finance and Taxation) of SCCI, Late CA Dinesh Choudhary, who served the Chamber and traders in various capacities over the years.

Professional experts were present as guests during the post budget seminar. They gave detailed information to the traders, entrepreneurs and professionals about the impact of the Union Budget on business and industry and answered the queries put forth by the traders and held discussion on the

SCCI holds Post budget seminar



budget. SCCI President Vijay Anand Moonka delivered the welcome address.

CA RK Vyas from Kolkata while discussing about direct tax informed about its positive outlook on

many of its provisions and also apprised the traders about the difficulties being faced. He informed that if a trader takes friendly loan from someone, then the taxpayer will have to tell the Income Tax Department

from where the money came to that borrower.

CA Vyas further said that service providers account for 55 percent of the country's GDP. Small businessmen, middle class and elderly were in need of



special relief in tax which was absent in this budget.

CS Aditya Singhania discussed in detail about Indirect Tax/GST and explained the businessmen, entrepreneurs and professionals about the

impact of the budget on business and industry.

CS Aditya Singhania informed about new provisions brought in the budget regarding input tax and said that the government is going to

make very stringent provisions to prevent bogus billing, but honest taxpayers will have to face a lot of trouble.

"The government has put a lot of burden on the honest taxpayers due to non

performance of their departmental machinery according to the capacity for which the government will have to face the anger of the taxpayers in future," added CS Aditya Singhania.

Also present were former President Advocate Murlidhar Kedia, former President CA GR Golcha, Vice President Mukesh Mittal, Nitesh Dhoot, Secretary PRW Bharat Makani, former general secretary Bharat Vasani, CA Gopal Harlalka, CA Ramakant Gupta, Advocate Rajiv Agarwal, Advocate K.L. Mittal, Advocate Satish Singh, Advocate Rajesh Agrawal, CA Manish Kedia, CA Kishan Chaudhary, CA Anil Ringasia, CA Saurav Sonthalia, CA Sugam Saraiwala, Pawan Naredi, Shrawan Debuka along with businessmen, entrepreneurs and professionals. (W-mb)

UP polls: Wearing handcuffs and shackles, this candidate from Firozabad appeals for votes and notes

Lucknow, Feb 6 (IANS) The campaign for the Assembly election in Uttar Pradesh's Firozabad gathers momentum as it gears up for the polls in the third phase to be held on February 20. The candidates have been trying different ways to woo the voters. Independent candidate Ramdas Manav, contesting from Firozabad city, was spotted asking for votes and currency notes from the people while wearing shackles on his body. Ramdas is the leader of a union of bangle workers



and he feels that workers working at bangle factories are being exploited. He forayed into the election to

improve the condition of the workers. His election symbol is a bangle. Ramdas has been going

up to people to promote his election symbol bangle. He himself is also a laborer, so he does not have enough money to spend on an election campaign. Taking a bowl in his hand and has been asking for both notes and votes. Ramdas claimed that the factories are holding on to the workers like the shackles he was wearing, and that the workers are not free. The workers are in handcuffs and shackles, he alleged. Ramdas also said that these shackles will come off when the laborer is free.



Union Minister Home Minister Amit Shah UP CM Yogi Adityanath Up Party President Swatantra Dev Singh and Deputy CM Keshav Prasad Maurya offering condolences on the death of Bharat Ratna Lata Mangeskar at Party office in Lucknow on Sunday, February 06, 2022.

SP candidate from Tilhar faces 'daughter-in-law' in election

Lucknow, Feb 6 (IANS) Sarita Yadav, who claims to be the daughter-in-law of sitting Tilhar MLA Roshanlal Verma, has announced to contest against her "father-in-law" on a Rashtriya Samaj Party ticket from the same seat. The Tilhar assembly seat in the Shahjahanpur district of UP goes to the polls in the second phase of the assembly elections on February 14. Verma had recently quit the BJP and joined the Samajwadi Party, and was given the SP ticket from Tilhar. Verma's alleged daughter-in-law Sarita has accused him of illegally grabbing people's land. Sarita Yadav told reporters on Sunday that she is contesting against her father-in-law Roshanlal Verma. She alleged that Verma has illegally encroached upon the land of many people in the Tilhar area and filed fake cases against a large number of Yadavs and people from the Muslim community.



Cong to restart mining in Goa within 3 to 6 months of forming govt: Chidambaram

Panaji, Feb 6 (IANS) If the Congress government comes to power in the February 14 elections, the party would look to restart the state's mining industry within three to six months, former Union Finance Minister P. Chidambaram said on Sunday. Addressing a press conference in Panaji, Chidambaram also said that a team of top legal experts would be consulted to draw a road-map to restart the mining industry which has been shut following a Supreme Court order in 2018. "We said that we will have a sustainable mining legal model ready in about a month or two. The model



will be ready in a month and then we will begin to implement it immediately thereafter," Chidambaram told reporters. "Legal mining will start, in my estimate, legal mining should start between three

to six months after the government is formed," the former Union Minister said. Chidambaram is camped in Goa as the Congress senior observer for the forthcoming state assembly elections which are

scheduled to be held on February 14. Chidambaram's comments come a day after the Congress released its manifesto for the assembly polls which promises to take all "legal and sustainable" mining activities in Goa. Mining has been halted in the state after the Supreme Court in 2018 scrapped all mining leases, citing irregularities in the lease renewal process. "We shall investigate all allegations of corruption in the mining industry. A comprehensive mapping of all mineral resources of Goa will be undertaken," the manifesto had also said.

PM Modi's virtual rally in Goa cancelled in wake of Lata's demise: CM

Panaji, Feb 6 (IANS) The Bharatiya Janata Party in Goa on Sunday cancelled Prime Minister Narendra Modi's virtual poll rally in the state, in view of the death of iconic singer Lata Mangeskar, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said. "BJP's events which include the PM's virtual rally and the manifesto release functions have been cancelled. Nitin Gadkari's public meeting has also been cancelled. Small constituency level events will continue to be held after offering condolences to Lata Mangeskar," Sawant told reporters. "In view of Lata Mangshkar's death, there is a two-day state mourning in Goa. All state functions have been cancelled," he also said.



Owaisi saw me shoot, so he ducked. . . I fired at lower portion of car

The two men accused of firing at Lok Sabha MP and AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi's car aborted the attack thrice earlier because of large crowds, according to Uttar Pradesh police which recorded their statements. The MP's car was shot at when he was returning from Meerut to Delhi on Thursday, following which police arrested Sachin Sharma and Shubham. According to the FIR, the accused did not give satisfactory answers to the police initially, but when investigators told them that the incident had been captured on CCTV, Sachin apologised and described what had transpired. "I wanted to become a big politician. I consider myself a true patriot. I



found Owaisi's speeches harmful to the nation. In my head, I had developed an enmity with him," the FIR quoted Sachin as having told the police. He told the police he got in touch with AIMIM's

Saharanpur, whom he has known for several years. "After I called him, Shubham came to Ghaziabad and we met on January 28 near Wave City. Shubham was staying with his friend. Both of us decided to kill Owaisi and began waiting for the right time," the FIR quoted Sachin as having told police. The two men attended a public gathering by Owaisi in Ghaziabad's Shahid Nagar on January 30. They wanted to execute their plan the same day but called it off owing to the crowd, Sachin told police. The two then went to Meerut's Gola Kuan on Thursday with the intention of shooting him. They did not do it due to the large crowd again.

This UP polls hinge on two ideologies, says Amit Shah

Baghpat, Feb 6 (IANS): Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday said that the upcoming Assembly polls in Uttar Pradesh are between two ideologies, the one which wants to save the mafia and the other which wants to finish the mafia. Addressing a rally in Uttar Pradesh's Baghpat, Shah said, "The election is between two ideologies. The one which is fighting this election for their family and the one which is fighting for his country. The one which is contesting for a caste, and the one which is willing to make the poor of the state happy. The one which is contesting to save the mafia and the one which wants to finish the mafia." The Union Minister further said that the election is not to elect the MLAs and



make Ministers, but to decide the future of the state. "Some people see this election as a ladder to become Ministers. This election is not to make an MLA or a Minister, but to take Uttar Pradesh forward and decide the future of the state. This election will decide if, in the coming days, there will be a rule of

mafia or law. Whether Uttar Pradesh will once again get scorched in the fire of riots or will proceed towards development," he said. Launching a scathing attack on Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, Shah said that he misled the people against the COVID-19 vaccine by appealing not to get jabbed, had people

Govt doing no justice to Noida floodplain residents: Priyanka

New Delhi, Feb 6 (IANS): Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Sunday hit out at the BJP-led Uttar Pradesh government, saying it was meting out 'gross injustice' to residents of the floodplains in Noida. She also alleged that the government was not bothered about the poor or the middle-class people but only concerned about its 'corporate friends'. "Gross injustice is being met out to the residents of the floodplain areas of Noida. They have every right to get electricity and water. This government neither listens to the poor nor the middle class but only thinks of benefiting its corporate friends. Together we have to bring about the change," Priyanka said in a Hindi tweet. "I want to tell my sisters and brothers of the floodplain areas that the Congress is standing with you and will take all possible steps to solve your problems," she added. Residents along the floodplains of the Yamuna and Hindon rivers have often complained of power and water problems.



First-phase polling will be eye-opener for govt: Akhilesh Yadav

Karhal (Mainpuri)/Agra, Feb 6 (IANS): Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Sunday attacked the BJP government, saying the "eyes and ears of the government will open in the first phase itself", as farmers and youngsters have "made up their mind" to defeat the BJP. It was Akhilesh Yadav's first meeting in Karhal after he filed his nomination papers from the assembly seat in the Mainpuri district. Karhal goes to the polls in the third phase on February 20. "The way the wind is blowing and seeing the atmosphere (of elections), it seems the eyes and ears of



the (BJP) government will open in the first phase itself," said the former UP chief minister. "The government's eyes and ears, which have been staying closed till now, will open up in the first phase itself as the farmers and youngsters have made up their mind to defeat the

BJP," Yadav asserted in the meeting. Speaking in Agra earlier, he alleged that people are being threatened over the phone against voting for his party after it has emerged as a powerful contender in the Uttar Pradesh assembly elections. He also asked people to record such

threatening calls so that based on them, FIRs could be lodged after his government comes to power. "Since the SP has emerged as a powerful contender in the elections, people are being threatened over the phone. If anyone gets such a call, record it. I want to say that the recordings will be considered as (the basis of) FIRs," Yadav said without taking any names. Yadav made the allegations while addressing workers' meet in the Bah assembly constituency of Agra. He said the assembly polls in the state are for the future of Uttar Pradesh and to save the country's Constitution.

Cong releases manifesto for Goa polls, assures resumption of mining if voted to power

Goa, Feb 6 (IANS): The Congress on Sunday released its manifesto for the upcoming Goa Assembly polls, and senior party leader P Chidambaram promised the resumption of mining activities in the coastal state if his party comes to power. He was speaking on some of the vital points of the manifesto released by the Congress for the state Assembly polls scheduled on February 14. The mining operations, which used to be one of the main sources of revenue for Goa, came to a grinding halt in the state in March 2018 after the Supreme Court quashed 88 mining leases. Chidambaram, who is the Congress' senior election observer for the Goa Assembly polls, said the problem for the state is not about finding resources, but the allocation of resources. Chidambaram said, "There are three avenues for the state budget - government's own resources, share of central govt revenue and central government grants," he said.



People getting threat calls after SP's emergence as key contender: Akhilesh

Agra, Feb 6 (IANS): Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Sunday alleged that people are being threatened over the phone against voting for his party after it has emerged as a powerful contender in the Uttar Pradesh assembly elections. He also asked people to record such threatening calls so that based on them FIRs could be lodged after his government comes to power. "Since the SP has emerged as a powerful contender in the elections, people are being threatened over the phone. If anyone gets such a call, record it. I want to say that the recordings will be considered as (the basis of) FIRs," Yadav said without taking any names. Yadav made the allegations while addressing workers' meet in the Bah assembly constituency of Agra. He said the assembly polls in the state are for the future of Uttar Pradesh and to save the country's Constitution.

I asked who's Sidhu: Rahul Gandhi's flashback as Channi becomes CM candidate

chandigarh, Feb 6 (IANS): In a nail-biting build-up before the announcement of Charanjit Singh Channi's name as the Congress's CM candidate for Punjab Assembly Election 2022, Rahul Gandhi reminisced the first time he met Navjot Singh Sidhu. Sidhu won't remember, Rahul Gandhi said as he narrated the incident that dates back to 40 years ago. "It was a Sunday like today. A cricket match in Doon school. Yadvindra public school came to play cricket there I saw Navjot Sidhu as a



bowler; 6 wickets, 130 runs and the Doon school team

were out. Someone told me he is Navjot Singh Sidhu. I

asked him who's he. He told me he is a fast bowler. And

then he came as the opening batsman and made 98 runs," Rahul Gandhi said. "Then he became a commentator, then a comedian and then a politician. Yes, sometimes he becomes emotional, but he has Punjab in his blood," Rahul Gandhi said. Navjot Singh Sidhu made a strong pitch for himself as the chief minister as he briefly addressed the gathering but said that he will accept the decision of Rahul Gandhi as he loves Punjab, not any post. The decision to pick a name was not easy, Rahul Gandhi said as Congress is a party full of gems. Talking about Sunil Jakhar, Rahul Gandhi said Sunil Jakhar is one person who can discuss anything about Punjab. "And then comes Channi ji, who was born and brought up in a poor family. Channi ji understands poverty. He has been the chief minister for the last 111 days, but have you seen any pride in him? Narendra Modi is the Prime Minister; Yogi Adityanath is also a chief minister. But have you seen them going to the people? No, because PM Modi is the king," Rahul Gandhi said.

India's Melody Queen, a beacon of inspiration, attains immortality

By Quaid Najmi

Though anticipated, when it became official that the Melody Queen of India, Lata Mangeshkar, is no longer among us, it hit the collective consciousness of the nation like a sledgehammer. The only consolation was that she may have passed on, but her voice, which moved our hearts and provided succour to our souls for more than seven decades, will forever be with us.

Like all inspirational stories, Lataji's early struggle to establish herself in the 1940s is one that we cannot ever forget. In those days, she would take a BEST bus and travel from her south Mumbai home regularly to meet Naushad Ali at his Khar West bungalow or in the studios, hoping for a 'singing break' under the legendary music maker's baton.

In the vicious Mumbai monsoon, she would come to Naushad's home, wearing her trademark sari, carrying an umbrella but totally drenched, shivering and barely able to speak, let alone sing. The music director would offer her piping hot tea and cookies to soothe her, but no songs ... yet ...

"I felt her voice was not yet 'ripe' for my style of music," said Naushad, the perfectionist, in a conversation with this writer. He was trying to justify not giving her an early break. "To improve her diction and control over words, I advised her to learn and practice Urdu, which she did ... and finally, she was ready to record for me."

The first choices of Naushad were the reigning stalwarts -- Noorjehan, Suraiya, Shamshad Begum, Zohra Ambalewali, to name a few.

With time, trained by her father, Dinanath Mangeshkar, Lataji grasped the maestro's advice and got her first major hit -- 'Uthaye Ja Unke Sitam' ('Andaz', 1949) -- composed by her mentor Naushad. With it, she 'arrived' in the film industry.

Thereafter, top music directors of the era wooed her, and they included Sachin Dev Burman, Husan Lal-Bhagat Ram (brothers), Ghulam Haider, Sardar Malik, Ghulam Mohammed, Jaidev, Salil Chowdhary, C. Ramchandra, Shankar-Jaikishan (partners), Roshan, Madan Mohan, M. Zahur Khayyam, Kalyanji-Anandji (brothers), Laxmikant-Pyarelal (partners), Sonik-Omi (uncle-nephew), Ravi Kumar Sharma or 'Ravi', Sudhir Phadke, Sajjad Hussain, Usha Khanna, and even A.R. Rahman, Anu Malik, Rajesh Roshan, Anand-Milind and Jatin-Lalit, among the younger crop of baton wielders.

Producers and directors vied for Lataji's unique voice and style for their top heroines, especially because she could 'mould' her voice to suit most heroines. Without doubt, she had become the first among women singers, a position that Mohammed Rafi enjoyed among the men.

Yet, there was a music director who remained aloof from Lataji -- with haughty pride -- and yet rose to the top echelons of the music industry -- the incomparable O.P. Nayyar.

"I found Lata's voice too thin, too shrill, which did not suit my compositions," Nayyar had once said, claiming he was "the only music director who succeeded in Bollywood without Lata's voice".

He added: "I needed a more vivacious, richer, healthier voice of, say, Shamshad Begum, Geeta Ghosh-Dutt, Asha Bhosale." One woman singer, Suman Kalyanpur, was blessed with a voice rivalling that of Lataji's, but she was content being in the shadows, yet she thrived on enduring masterpieces composed by some of the music directors.

As Lataji's singing style matured under master music directors, her voice helped heroines who acted or danced to her tunes catapult to stardom, such as Madhubala, Meena Kumari, Nargis, Ameela, Beena Rai, Waheeda Rehman, Vijayantimala Bali, Tanuja, Sharmila Tagore, Asha Parekh, Nutan, Saira Bano, Sadhana Shivdasani, Babita Kapoor, Zeenat Aman, Parveen Babi, Hema Malini, Rekha, Sridevi, Neelu Singh, Madhuri Dixit, and many others in the post-1980s, right down to the youngsters, notably, Kajol, Rani Mukherjee and Karisma Kapoor.

After the exit of Noorjehan from India and the fading away of other stalwart female singers, by the late 1950s/early 1960s, Lataji was firmly perched on the top of the heap and brooked no nonsense from anyone -- producers, directors, composers, siblings or contemporaries -- attempting to clamber anywhere close to her roost.

Bollywood is full of stories of how Lataji ring-fenced her position till the very end, often raising the hackles of her female peers, although male singers, such as Mohammed Rafi, Mukesh, Kishore Kumar, Mahendra Kapoor and Manna Dey (all deceased) and others, chose to maintain a professional rapport with her.

Nevertheless, there were tales of how Rafi once bore the brunt of her "other side", or certain composers quivering as she gently declined to sing for them after they allegedly dared to commission some other female singers, for whatever reason. Of course, powerful filmmakers such as Mehboob Khan, Raj Kapoor, Kamal Amrohi, Dev Anand, Shakti Samanta, B.R. Chopra, Yash Chopra and the likes had no time for tantrums.

Born on September 28, 1929, as the oldest child of a musically inclined family in Indore (Madhya Pradesh) -- comprising father Dinanath, Lataji, Meena (Khadilkar), Asha (Bhosale), Usha and sole brother Hridaynath -- she was tutored by her dad from the age of five and also acted in his musical stage plays, till death in 1942.

Helped by a close family friend, Master Vinayak D. Karnatak, she got a foothold in singing and acting that year with a first Marathi song and a maiden Hindi song in 1943 before shifting to the film industry capital in 1945.

In Bombay (now, Mumbai), she learnt classical music and continued singing the odd songs, till her big break with 'Dil Mera Toda, Mujhe Kahinka Na Chhoda' (Majboor, 1948), with full help from Ghulam Haider, whom she later described as her "godfather".

With a colossus such as Noorjehan still around, Lataji continued her with a few more hits -- 'Aayega Aanewala' (Mahal, 1949) and 'Uthaye Ja Unke Sitam' ('Andaz', 1949), heralding her entry with a bang in big-time Bollywood.

Simultaneously, she sang in different Indian languages with aplomb, non-film songs, with her range encompassing classical, tragic, melodious, erotic, melancholic, light, mischievous, depending on the composer, or the heroine, or the song situation.

After the seniors passed away or faded out, Lataji sang expertly and easily with the gen next of male singers such as S.P. Balasubramaniam, Amit Kumar, Shabbir Kumar, Nilin Mukesh, Anwar, Udit Narayan and Sonu Nigam, and astounded her listeners with the seemingly "undying" power and youthfulness of her golden voice.

Over the decades, she was decorated with a multitude of rewards and honours -- three Padma awards, five Filmfare Awards, the Dadasaheb Phalke Award -- capped by the Bharat Ratna in 2001. More than that, state governments named awards and institutions after her.

Lataji sang at prestigious live concerts or charitable events, enthralling global audiences, picked up more overseas accolades, such as France's highest civilian honour, Officer of the Legion of Honour, in 2007, briefly dabbled in high-end merchandise, such as signature jewellery and perfumes, launched a production and music house, and entered into international music collaborations.

Death has only removed her physically. The legacies she leaves behind will outlive her for decades.

(Quaid Najmi can be contacted at: q.najmi@ians.in)

Letter to Editor

Taxing cryptos and promoting RBI digital currency

Taxing digital assets legitimates investing in Crypto which also paves the way for Crypto Law which is hanging fire. Additionally as now RBI wants to launch digital currency, the main aim of budget is to shift the focus of investors from Crypto to RBI's digital currency, which is the prominent reason behind heavy taxation on Crypto income. But the extravaganza performance of Crypto entice the potential investors. As crypto investments have surpassed the \$10 billion mark it is a proof of people faith in blockchain technology. Thus cryptos are no ephemeral. Also when now government want to earn from this by taxing and further promoting RBI's digital currency. They need to ensure the security of general public. This nascent industry is lucrative and needs combined efforts of general public and government because one can't overlook the hazards of Cyber attack on digital wallets. Therefore being Tech-Savvy is the need of hour.

-Shruti Sharma, Ujjain

Lost gem but her voice will remain immortal forever

The world has lost one more gem in the name of Lata Mangeshkar or known as nightingale of India. She received India's highest civilian honour Bharat Ratan. The melodious voice she possessed had touched billions of life around the world and she became one of the biggest identity of Indian music industry by singing more than thirty thousand songs across 36 language.

However, her death is not to be mourned instead celebrating her life achievement and the legacy that she has left behind would be a real tribute to the legendary singer. As her demise saddens us we should remember her euphonic, magnificent and melodious voice will always remain alive in our hearts and will remain immortal for generations to come to listen and enjoy.

Yours sincerely

- Rajat Jain, Ujjain

National Education Policy and the Education Budget 2022

By M.R. Lulu

The Education Budget 2022 has been increased by 11.86% from the previous year with a significant fund allocation for digital education and skill development. As the National Education Policy completes one year of its implementation, an increase of Rs.11054 crore from the previous year needs to be taken with the right spirit. NEP 2020 is all set to change India's education system. A growing economy, with an ambitious generation of learners, India has the real potential to systematically reinvent its abilities and move ahead breaking all obstacles. It is a reform with tangible and assertive steps designed to ward off anomalies. Imprint of perfect expertise is visible throughout the draft. Beginning his formal education at the age of three, a child is prepared to get ready for the real task in the next five years, which means, the Anganwadis and other institutions to cater pre-primary education will have to equip themselves to set the scene right. In his most criticized comment on the education system of Kerala, one of the most celebrated actors in the Malayalam film industry had to face the ire of the Kerala Women's Commission. The actor courted controversy after he said in a TV programme that children in Kerala were at a disadvantageous position with regard to education, as they were initiated to the process of pre-primary learning by uneducated Anganwadi teachers, who did not get work elsewhere. He had to face the fury of the Commission as he compared the pre-primary learning in the state with developed countries such as Japan, where highly qualified teachers taught Kindergarten kids. Actor Srinivasan, a famous Marxist liberal was warned by the Kerala Women's Commission terming his opinion misogynistic. The actor was trying to reflect the reality of the situation to the world. More than 66000 workers are employed in about 33000 Anganwadis in the state.

The NEP 2020 makes proposals to strengthen the infrastructure of Anganwadi centres with modern learning materials. With this, the Anganwadi teachers and the system of pre-schooling became part of the formal schooling. But reality on the ground is not so encouraging. We have a scanty resource mobilization at present when it comes to the strengthening of the pre-primary education system. There are various reasons contributing to the dismay. From choosing a place to establish Anganwadis to the recruitment of teachers to the facilities available, the dominant element visible across the system is laxity. Unfortunately, a large number of Anganwadis in many areas in India fail to conduct regular classes for at least three hours every day. Anganwadi



workers are supposed to play the most prominent role in providing basic education, nutrition and ensuring health in rural India. As per the policy, the Anganwadi workers are to undergo certificate and diploma programme to strengthen their abilities in pre-primary teaching. Consistent and straightforward efforts are to be taken to bring the system to an unshakable track.

Swami Vivekananda had a vision for education. According to him, education is the manifestation of perfection already in man. Mahatma Gandhi also thought in the same line as he says that education should be the process of putting the best in body, soul and spirit. Thus, it is evident that the new narrative in the NEP directs us towards a different outlook which had been forgotten for long; reinvention of a value-based system of education with adequate elements of skill development assisted by modern technologies. The education system in the country has undergone multiple changes and amendments and recommendations since Independence. Various commissions had been set up to refurbish it. Yet, we lacked essence when it comes to its ability to deliver in comparison with developed countries. Now, a positive change is welcome with proper implementation put in place. Education system can bring about a variety of changes to society and the NEP passed in 1986 with its modifications in 1992 served good results throughout the last three decades. But marching with time, with new requirements in innovations and inventions with inclusive approach strengthening its frame and outlook altogether, NEP 2020 brings a smile on every face with a shimmer of hope visible. Attending the aspirations of a sizable young generation, helping them march with the massive developments in technology is a big challenge. We cannot deny the fact that employability is a serious issue that we face today as a country. It is said that in India, the top 10 IT companies are recruiting 6 percent of the total engineering graduates. A study in the IT sector was shocking, which tells that 94 percent of the engineering graduates in the country are not employable.

Voters: The dominant face of democracy



By Acharya Dr. Lokeshmuni

The assembly elections of five states have been announced, but the biggest irony which is being seen every time is that these elections are issueless and the situations of changing the parties are a common thing. From Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand to Goa, Manipur and Punjab, now the fortune of political parties and leaders are in the hands of the voters. Like every time in these elections also, the main issue is casteism, communal bigotry and attempts to woo voters are weakening the roots of democracy. At present, money and power are becoming dominant traits in elections, politics was once a means of service, but today it is becoming a business, it is a matter of concern and it is weakening the roots of democracy.

In the elections of these five states, the voter will have to play a dual role - as the owner of the house and also as the watchman of the house. As a proprietor, it will be his duty to try and see those who are called contractors of public interest and as the watchman of the house; it becomes his duty not only to stay awake but also to be constantly alert. It is the need of this awareness and caution that he weighs the words and deeds of those who want to sit in power on the scales of conscience. Since he is the one to lose the most and gain the most, he also has the greatest responsibility. Voters should fulfill this responsibility at the individual level as well - by asking themselves what would be the basis for their voting. The first decision the



voter has to make is whether he has to vote. Then it has to be decided that he will not vote in favour of the 'wrong'. When every voter uses his vote very thoughtfully, then only democracy will be strong and only then a strong India can be built.

Ahimsa Vishwa Bharti is running a voter awareness campaign to make voters aware. The main purpose is to force the voter to think that how criminals get our vote? How do the corrupt that play with the wealth of the nation become our ideals? Why do we vote for the corrupt, opportunists and criminals and then they rule us? We accept these conditions silently. But for how long? How long will we keep being cheated? For how long will we continue to watch the nation being looted as a mute spectator?

Change can take place in society only by the collective improvement of the individual and the system. Unless the hands that govern the law are holy, even changing the law will be insufficient. To strengthen democracy, it is necessary to choose the right candidate. Just as criteria are necessary in various examinations, in the same way the criteria of eligibility should be fixed in politics. Vote for those who are honest, free from destruction, free from casteism obsession and communal fanaticism and believe in national unity, human values and social harmony. Just as a person thinks while handing over

his daughter's hand, in the same way while casting his vote, he should cast his vote after considering it.

Political parties have started preparing for the elections in their own way. There was no talk of alliances; the strategies for alliances were being prepared. Defection is happening. Various political parties have started manipulating the equations. There is a ruckus in some national parties, while for some regional political parties; these elections remain a question of prestige. Amidst these situations, the voter also has to be aware. Voters should present their role in such a powerful way in the coming election that the political party cannot dare to ignore it after the election. Even political parties should learn that today's voter is not a puppet of their hand although a strong component of this election system.

This system of kings and rulers is a universal truth of the world. Methods keep changing. Earlier the king was born from the queen's womb and now he is born from the 'ballot box'. That is why the most important aspect in democracy is elections. It is a reflection of the national character. To maintain healthy values in democracy, the health of elections and the active participation of common voters are essential. Voters have to wake up before political parties. All political

parties publish their manifestos - will make the people rich in five years, every hand will get work, there will be houses for all, roads, schools and hospitals, now there will be competition to provide electricity and water for free. In the newly emerging political culture of freebies people keep taking sweet dreams. How many five year elections were held and so many five year plans were completed but it is the eighth wonder of the world that no goal was achieved in its totality. Every time the voter was cheated, misled. Why don't his eyes open yet?

There was an era when emperors, kings and rulers used to protect their kingdom and subjects by fighting with the strength of their arms and sacrificed their lives for this duty and ideal. Today the fight is being fought with slogans and notes, elections are being fought - to get power. The one who can give an alluring slogan, who can spend as much money, can only mislead the voter today. That is why not only the political parties have to prepare for the elections; the voters also have to do it. But do we make any preparations? Or are you preparing? The games of political manipulation and distribution of freebies should be happy only to the political parties, but only the awareness of the voter can give pure breath to the nation and democracy and for this the voter will also have to

This is because of the widening skill gap. Those who graduate in the field are not able to trek with the latest technological changes. In fact, many companies are initiating skill development programmes for their employees. Alarming, the All-India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) states that nearly 200 engineering colleges have applied for closure in recent years. According to the Council, there is a decline of about 75000 engineering seats every year. The council has already approved the closure of about 400 colleges. When it comes to the other streams in graduation, many graduates are unable to write even basic sentences properly. With the 5+3+3+4 formula comes into practice, every child, as he reaches his fourth segment of this formula, enjoys a free will to follow whichever subject he feels like to study. The 10+2 formula has awkwardly compartmentalized students segregating them to the 'meritorious science' versus the 'rest'. The multiple entry and exit points in higher education, as per the new policy, reduce the burden and stress of the students. The new academic credit bank will enable students to start from where they left without any loss. In its initiative, the policy advocates for education in the mother tongue in the first five years, which is a welcome move. This indeed is much criticized as a large number of people move from one state to another in search of jobs and the local languages change from state to state. Many are skeptical about this proposal as mostly proficiency in the English language is considered to be a requisite for employability and of course, a large number of parents want their children to gain proficiency in English at a younger age. The policy also provides equal opportunity and promotes meritocracy. To provide universal access to quality education, we have a long way to go. The budget allocates funds for major schemes such as Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan and for the creation of 'Exemplar Schools.' About 15000 schools in the country are to be converted into Exemplar Schools with quality education. Fund is also allocated for teachers training and adult education and for scholarships. Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States (STARS) is a new project with financial assistance from the World Bank aiming to improve the learning assessment systems. Obviously, it is a paradigm shift. In a new geopolitical scenario, a resurgent India is possible only through pertinent changes implemented in the education system which caters elements for progress consistently from the grassroots.

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strategize. Why should anyone get my vote? Has the one I voted for lived up to my expectations? Wasn't the wrong thing influencing my decision to vote? The one I didn't vote for, has he tried to correct his shortcomings? These and many more are questions that voters will have to constantly ask themselves. Our misfortune is that voter apathy and neglect is the biggest cause of political corruption and criminalisation.

The truth is that the job of a voter is not only to vote judiciously, but also to constantly check whether his vote is being used properly or not. The question is not only of the interests of the political parties, it is a question of the frequent betrayal of the voter. And what is the voter doing to make himself eligible for democracy? Despite the huge budget in the name of development, why do conditions of drought, illiteracy, unemployment, inflation, malnutrition have to be seen? A long chain of such questions should arise in the mind of the voter. The question is also why political interests often outweigh the interests of the society and the country? The question is also why do situations like demonetisation come into the country? The question is also that when a strong atmosphere is being created in front of the parties which have been raising slogans on corruption and black money for a long time, then why were these parties stealing their faces from this campaign? Will they remove the worries of the poor people in the country who do not even have time to overcome the worries of maintaining their power? Will such political parties build a corruption-free strong moral nation, which is being accused of corruption every day? The biggest control in democracy should be public opinion, not politics.

(The views expressed are personal opinion of the author. He can be reached at avbl863@gmail.com)

As Bengal's debt piles up, state govt applies brakes on spending

Kolkata, Feb 6 (IANS) Recently West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee directed all the departments to cut down unnecessary expenditure beyond the approved budget and not to take any new project without the approval of the Chief Secretary or the finance department. This made it obvious that the government is trying to negotiate the financial burden imposed by the non-planned expenditure of the dole politics of the chief minister before the election.

"The Centre owes us more than Rs 90,000 crore. However, the state finance department has released Rs 74,000 crore this year to various departments and 84 per cent of the funds disbursed have been spent already. No projects which are not approved in the budget should be taken up. The approval from the Chief Secretary and the finance department will be mandatory for any project," Banerjee had said.



She added that the state's revenue collections have been hit by the Covid pandemic raging since the last two years. She made it clear that the state government will not be able to allocate Rs 100 crore for the proposal to buy land for expansion of Malda airport. "I cannot give Rs 100 crore (to the land losers). I may build houses for them, provide jobs but I cannot buy their land. I don't have that kind of money," Mamata had said.

The Chief Minister had suggested several measures that will not only cut down the unnecessary expenses but also increase the state revenues. She announced that the state transport department will acquire all the truck terminals functioning along the border to increase the revenues.

Banerjee had alleged that some people in nexus with some officers were taking money from the truck terminals functioning along the border. The taking over

total of Rs 7,053 crore from the market. Of these seven states, West Bengal was the highest borrower with Rs 2,500 crore. On the 24th of that month, a total of 16 states borrowed a total of Rs 22,984 crore from the market. In this case too, West Bengal had the highest debt at Rs 4,000 crores. This means that from December 14 to January 24, in these 41 days, the West Bengal government borrowed a total of Rs 13,000 crore from the open market.

In the period between April 2020 to December 2020 when the state revenues plummeted to an all time low because of the pandemic situation and the consequent lockdown the state raised around Rs 35000 crores from the market but interestingly enough during the current financial year between April 2021 to December 2021 the state went for a market borrowing of Rs 52,500 crore. During the same period in 2019 the

state borrowed Rs 28,000 crore via the State Development Loan.

Earlier IANS wrote that if the state government is supposed to run the social schemes like Swastha Sathi or Lakshmir Bhandar announced by the chief minister before the election, market borrowing can be the only viable alternative for the Mamata Banerjee government. The reason is very simple.

After coming to power for the third time chief minister Mamata Banerjee announced two major schemes - 'Lakshmir Bhandar' and 'Swastha Sathi' for all - that demand a huge financial involvement. 'Lakshmir Bhandar' is a project where the state is supposed to give Rs 1,000 to the women belonging to SC/ST/OBC and Rs 500 to the women belonging to the general caste. The government has allocated approximately Rs 12,900 crore for around 1.8 crore women who have so far registered themselves for

the scheme. Initially the government had an estimate that nearly 2 crore beneficiaries will register for 'Lakshmir Bhandar' project but so far, the government has received 1.63 crore applications of which 1.52 crore have been approved. Nearly 7 lakh applications have been rejected. The government has spent more than Rs 800 crore on the project and going by the figure the finance department estimates that the state government will have to cough up another Rs 5,600 crore which might in turn lead to a staggering figure in a full financial year.

Countering the Centre's Ayushman Bharat the state launched its own scheme - 'Sasthya Sathi Prokolpo' where some citizens of the state were given an annual health coverage of five lakh rupees. After coming to power in 2021, the Chief Minister opened 'Swastha Sathi' for all the citizens of the state leading to a

quantum leap in the expenditure. Even a year back the estimated budget for this project was around Rs 925 crore, but this year the allocation touched Rs 2,000 crore annually.

According to experts, with declining revenues multiple market borrowings have now become the essential compulsion of the West Bengal government to meet its recurring expenses. The experts are of the opinion that the state is struggling with the non-plan expenditure mostly to meet the promises made by chief minister Mamata Banerjee during her election campaign.

Incidentally, when the 34-year rule of the Left Front came to an end in 2011 and Mamata Banerjee became the Chief Minister, the accumulated debt of the state was Rs 1.93 lakh crore. But, according to the state government's budget figures, the accumulated debt is likely to go upto Rs 5.5 lakh crore by the end of the 2020-21 financial year.

About 4K telecom towers to be installed in Odisha soon: Ashwini Vaishnaw

Bhubaneswar, Feb 6 (IANS) Union Minister of Railways, Communications and Electronics and Information Technology, Ashwini Vaishnaw on Sunday said the Centre would install about 4,000 mobile towers in various places across Odisha very soon.

Addressing a press conference here, Vaishnaw said nearly about 6,000 villages in Odisha remain out of mobile connectivity due to lack of mobile towers.

In December last year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had sanctioned a proposal for installation of mobile towers at 3,933 sites in the state, he said, adding



in some places, one site will cover more than one village.

"There is a clear instruction from the Prime Minister that not a single village of Odisha should be left out from mobile connectivity. The PM has asked us to conduct a survey and come out with a Cabinet note, if any village has still left out. This is what we called Mission Purvodaya," the Minister said.

He said the BSNL, which went bankrupt during the UPA government regime, is being revived by the Modi government.

"For the first time, the BSNL has come to operating profit level

the two telecom companies to uplift those to the next higher level," Vaishnaw said.

Further, the Prime Minister has instructed to develop 4G and 5G technology in India. While 4G technology has already been developed and is in testing stage while the 5G technology for both phone and radio networks will be developed soon, he informed.

On the allocation in the Union Budget 2022-23 for development of railways in Odisha, Vaishnaw said the state has been sanctioned more funds under the BJP government at the Centre than the UPA rule.

Average annual budget

allocation for railways in the State of Odisha was around Rs 800 crore per year during 2009-14. This allocation has been enhanced to Rs 4,126 crore per year during 2014-19, he said.

In this budget, he said, the government has allocated a historic highest amount of Rs 9,734 crore for the development of railways in Odisha. He further said that 12 railway stations of Odisha will be upgraded.

Earlier, the Union Minister at the Odisha BJP office here, paid floral tributes to legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar who passed away on Sunday morning.

Service confirmation of 7 cases in District Council



Seraikela, Feb 6: A meeting of the establishment committee related to public servants was held under the chairmanship of the Principal Executive Committee of the Zilla Parishad. On the occasion, after discussing the 8 proposals received for service confirmation, seven were approved. One was cancelled. A total of 11 were approved while discussing the 12 proposals received by ACP MACP. The meeting was mainly attended by DDC cum District Council Chief Executive Officer Praveen Kumar Gargai, District Panchayati Raj Officer cum Executive Officer Dhanveer Lakshra, District Agriculture Officer Vijay Kujur and District Accounts Officer Priyanka Singh and others were present.(W-pb)

91 units of blood collected in camp



Seraikela, Feb 6: A blood donation camp was organized on the occasion of Saraswati Puja under the aegis of Balak Sangh located in Manikbazar village. The camp was inaugurated by Rajesh Sahu, District Vice President of Red Cross Society as the chief guest. Seraikela Circle Officer Suresh Kumar Sinha, Dr. Pradeep Mahto, Dr. Meenu Kumari, Former Principal Dr. Gurupad Rajwar was present as special guests. On this occasion 45 units of blood were sent to two blood banks MGM Blood Bank and 46 units to Seraikela Blood Bank. Abhishek Kumar, Gaur Mahto, Virchand Karuva, Vimal Mahto, Pradeep Mahto, Jaiprakash Mahto, Jagdish Mahto, Prabhat Mahto, October Kalindi, Sunil Kalindi, Prakash Mahto, Praveen Mahto, Ashok Leyangi contributed in making it a success.(W-pb)

Career counseling session on Aatmanirbhar Bharat

Chaibasa, Feb 6: Nehru Yuva Kendra Chaibasa organised career counseling and career guidance program as part of the Aatmanirbhar Bharat scheme in Balaji Apartment, Sadar block in which youth from Sadar block participated.

ICITP Jharkhand Chairman, Sushil Kumar Puri was present as the chief guest and inaugurated the program.

Addressing the gathering, Puri said that everyone wants to be successful but it is not necessary that



everyone would get the same success. The only way to be successful in life is to choose the right career at the right time, but it has often been seen that students are most worried about which field we should choose and which one we should not.

Along with this, the participants were informed in detail what career choices they have on the chosen subject and were told about the Aatmanirbhar Bharat scheme and what work they

can do with the help of this scheme.

Sushil Kumar Puri, Shashikala Puri, Pankaj Kumar were present as instrumentalists.

Accounts and Program Assistant Girijanand Ratnakar called upon the youth to move ahead with a positive attitude and also gave information about the various schemes being run by the government.

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sushma Devi greeted the youth and thanked everyone. Sunil Jerai, Neha Kumari, Asha Anupam Paul and others were present. (W-mb)

Contests for children on the occasion of Saraswati Puja



Seraikela, Feb 6: A colorful cultural program was organized on the occasion of Saraswati Puja at Mahatma Gandhi Club Dugni. On the occasion, dance, antakshari, quiz and drawing competition were organized among the children. The program was conducted by Club President Abhay Mohapatra and his team members. Mahadev Mahato was present as the chief guest in the program. Prizes were also distributed during the competition held on the occasion.

Anmol Mohapatra and Vinayak Mohapatra stood first in the quiz competition. Ankit Das was the best in the drawing competition and Sonal Kaivart was the best in the carrom competition. (W-pb)

Demand to relive from medical incharge post

Seraikela, Feb 6: Dr Sangeeta Kerketta, the Medical officer-in-charge of Community Health Center Seraikela, in a letter to the Deputy Commissioner has urged to relieve her from the post. She says that repeated allegations are being made by the staff and officials of the Community Health Center due to which all programs of the block are unable to be completed. She also sent a copy of the letter to the Civil Surgeon.(W-mb)

Expansion of organization in meeting



Seraikela, Feb 6: A special meeting of the Yuva Gram Vikash Sangh was organized in Sargachhida on Sunday. The meeting was presided over by the president of the association, Lipiram Mahato. Treasurer Lalmohan Mahto presented the monthly account. Apart from this, the members present unanimously passed many other resolutions including getting the union registered.

On occasion, the organization was also expanded. In meeting, Khudiram Mahato was appointed as Chief Advisor, Khageshwar Mahato and Subhash Chandra Mahato as Advisor, Devashish Mahato as Vice President, Parameshwar Mahato as Co-Secretary, Narad Mahato as Co-Treasurer and Sunil Kumar Mahato as Media Incharge. The vote of thanks was proposed by Secretary Sunil Mahato. All the selected office bearers and active members of the Sangh were Karthik Mahto, Gurva Barda, Gomha Mahto, Dilip Mahto, Shatrughan Mahto, Sudhir Mahto, Jitendra Barda, Sanjay Mahto, Yadu Das, Sahadev Mahto, Hirekrishna Mahato, Shankar Mahato, Mohan Tanti, Lagain. Mahto was mainly present.(W-pb)



People light candles to pay tribute to veteran singer Lata Mangeshkar at Sant Pashupatinath Vedic School, in Patna, Sunday, February 06, 2022.



Bharatiya Jana Mahasabha on Saturday paid tributes to Haqiqat Rai on his death anniversary. Members of the Mahasabha remembered the freedom fighters at a program organised in Bistupur.

Free medical camp of CoBRA battalion in Seraikela

Seraikela, Feb 6: For the needy people of Bholadih village and nearby villages of the Seraikela-Kharsawan district, 209 CoBRA Battalion organized a free medical camp as part of the civic action program under Commandant Surendra Kumar on Sunday in which Padma Shri Chhutni Mahto was mainly present.

In the camp, Commandant Surendra Kumar honored Padmashree Chhutni Mahto with a shawl



and a memento. In the camp organized by the battalion, the commandant distributed radio, sari, blankets etc. among the needy people. Chief Medical Officer of

the battalion, Dr K. N Lal, distributed essential medicines after treating the sick villagers.

On the occasion, Commandant Surendra Kumar, Chief Medical Officer Dr K N Lal, deputy commandant Hariom Singh, deputy commandant Karthik, assistant commandant Binod Kumar along with other officers, personnel and head of Bholadih Panchayat, and ward members along with dozens of villagers were present.(W-rg)

NYK hosts women camp

Gamharia, Feb 6: A one-day training camp for women was organized in the courtyard of Upgraded Middle School, Vijay in the court of Nehru Yuva Kendra, Seraikela-Kharsawan, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India. Monica Mahto, National Youth Volunteer of Nehru Yuva Kendra, Gamharia Block, who was present on the occasion, told that this training camp has been organized for women to prepare self-reliant India and digital accessibility-bank friends. The camp was started by planting a mango tree by Digvijay Bharat, director of Sant Kabir Seva Sansthan, Gamharia. (W-rg)

Lata Mangeshkar never took any allowances during her six-year tenure as Rajya Sabha MP

Mumbai, Feb 6: Lata Mangeshkar, after intermittent scares about her deteriorating health, breathed her last on Sunday morning. Besides being the singing legend she was, Mangeshkar was also part of the Rajya Sabha for six years, her term being famous for not taking any allowances.

Supported by the BJP, she was elected on November 22, 1999, and was part of the House till November 21, 2005. Following an RTI, it was revealed that during her term, she never touched the allowances and checks she received as a parliamentarian. The document showed that all payments that were made to Mangeshkar from the Pay Accounts Office were returned. Lata Mangeshkar's tenure, however, was infamous for her being absent from the

Lata raised money for 1983 World Cup winners: Vengsarkar recalls her cricket craze

Mumbai, Feb 6: When 'Kapil's Devils' won the 1983 cricket World Cup beating the mighty West Indies at Lord's, among the scores of jubilant Indian supporters at the venue was a special fan whose presence took even the team by surprise. "Lata didi (Lata Mangeshkar) also came to congratulate us... And we were all surprised to find her among the crazy fans," former India captain Dilip Vengsarkar said, underlining her love for cricket, soon after the legendary singer passed away on Sunday morning, aged 92.

However, more surprises awaited the team on its return to India. "After our World Cup victory, the cricket board announced Rs 25,000 prize money for each player. Lata didi was apparently taken aback by this (low sum). After our return to the country, she organised a fundraising musical concert for us (in Delhi) and awarded Rs 1 lakh to each player in the team.

House. In the six years, she could only make it to the House for 12 days - and that too not 12 full days. In those six years, she asked just one, unstarred, question - on derailment of trains! "Whether it is a fact that the incidents of derailment of trains on various sections

have been on the increase; if so, the number of train derailment incidents since the beginning of the year 2000; the estimated loss suffered by the Railways as a consequence thereof; what measures have been taken by government to prevent such incident?"

Mumbai, Feb 6: Lata Mangeshkar has passed but the music plays on - in a seemingly endless refrain, as it has for almost eight decades and likely for many more. She was admitted to the Breach Candy Hospital on January 8 after she tested positive for Covid-19, and was under treatment in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) over the past couple of weeks.

The monikers are many - 'melody queen', 'India's nightingale', 'the voice of the millennium' and simply 'Lata didi' for many. She mesmerised all and sundry with her golden voice and former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru was one of them.

In 1963, she performed the heart-wrenching tribute song 'Ae Mere Watan Ke Logon' in front of the then Prime Minister Nehru. Later, in an interview, Mangeshkar said that, "I



was much relieved to get it over with. After I finished my two songs, I went backstage to relax with a cup of coffee, unaware [of] what an enduring impact the song had created. Suddenly, I heard Mehboob Khan Saab calling for me. He caught hold of my hand and said, 'Chalo, Panditji ne

bulaya hai."

She also spoke about how she was surprised at the incident and wondered why the Prime Minister had called for her. "Panditji said, 'Bahut achcha. Mere aankhon mein paani aa gaya,'" she added.

Lata Mangeshkar's last recorded song was the

Gayatri Mantra for Isha Ambani's wedding (6)

Iconic singer Lata Mangeshkar passed away today on February 6. The 92-year-old breathed her last at the Breach Candy Hospital in Mumbai where she was admitted on January 8. Known fondly as the "Nightingale of

India", Lata Mangeshkar won several awards and accolades for her melodious voice.

After the news of her death spread on social media, fans starting pouring in tributes to the legendary singer. Many also started sharing snippets from her illustrious career. But, do you know about the last song Lata Mangeshkar recorded?

Swar Kokila Lata Mangeshkar recorded the Gayatri Mantra along with a message of congratulations specially for the wedding of Isha Ambani and Anand Piramal. The couple got married on December 12, 2018 and the legendary singer's recording was played during the wedding.

According to sources, Mangeshkar recited the Gayatri Mantra perfectly in a single take.

An artiste beyond extraordinary

Mumbai, Feb 6: For more than seven decades now, the name Lata Mangeshkar has been synonymous with extraordinary talent and artistic excellence. Even though she slowed down about two decades ago, after a highly successful and prolific career, few Indian artistes can dream of ever matching her achievements, star power, or mass appeal. Such is her impact on Indian music that Mangeshkar can not only be unequivocally called an exceptional vocalist but also one of the greatest Indians of all time.

The 1929-born singer was around 20 years old when she swung into popular consciousness in 1949 with the outstanding success of "Aayega

Anewala" in Mahal. However, at the time, there was an unfair practice of characters in the movies, on whom a song was pictured, to be credited for songs instead of the original playback singer. In this case, it was Madhubala's character in Mahal, named Kamini. The song created a frenzy and All India Radio (AIR) was flooded with calls to know the singer's name.

Mangeshkar was unstoppable after that. After doing a few roles in Marathi films, she had taken up playback singing to financially support her family following her father's death. However, once she shot to nationwide fame, she went on to dominate playback singing in India for the next 50



Dilip Kumar always referred to Lata Mangeshkar as "younger sister"

years with her mellifluous voice, unique talent, hard work, and some well-thought-out career moves.

When Mangeshkar entered the scene in the late '40s, the film industry was finding its stability after World War II and India's independence. Filmmaking was making impressive strides in terms of creativity and innovations. She came to represent "the spirit of new India" with goosebumps-inducing songs such as "Allah Tero Naam in Hum Dono" (1961), which celebrates India's secularism, and the landmark "Ae Mere Watan Ke Logo" which was first performed on Republic Day in 1963, in memory of the Indian soldiers who died during the 1962 India-China War.

Mangeshkar's voice carried a universal appeal that touched the soul as well as reflected her technical brilliance. But, she never took her art for granted. Known to be extremely hardworking, she learnt Urdu to improve her pronunciation and understanding of the language. She was as careful about choosing the songs as she was about her persona. She refused to sing anything that sounded inappropriate. Her public appearances were non-glamorous as she was mostly seen in off-white saris with her hair tied in a long plait - at times, two plaits.

It can't be a mere coincidence that in the '70s when she sang a bhajan of singer-saint Mirabai, there

was a slogan that gained currency: "Lata is Meera. Meera is Lata" (mentioned in Neepa Majumdar's book Wanted Cultured Ladies Only!: Female Stardom and Cinema in India, 1930s to 1950s, published by University of Illinois Press: Urbana and Chicago, 2009). This contributed to her image of being "pure" and she emerged as almost a reverential figure. What added to Mangeshkar's aura is the fact that she was unflinchingly humble during her public appearances - often calling her voice to be "god's gift" and her success to be her parents' "blessings".

During her lifetime, Mangeshkar earned many titles. The highest among them was the Bharat Ratna, which was conferred on her

in 2001. Though the award was instituted in 1954, she is one of the only five women, and the last one, to receive the title. Other prominent honours include Dadasaheb Phalke Award, India's highest award in cinema. That apart, there are multiple sobriquets attributed to her including 'Nightingale of India' that asserts her stature as a prominent artiste of the nation. Then, of course, there are informal ones such as 'Melody Queen', 'Maharani' and 'High Command' - the latter two are mainly jibes taken at the power she wielded in the industry (writes Raju Bharatan in his book Lata Mangeshkar: A Biography, UBS Publishers; 1995). She was also fondly called Latabai and Didi.

When Lata Mangeshkar sang in front of her idol Noor Jehan, Pak legend made this prediction

Mumbai, Feb 6: Legendary playback singer Lata Mangeshkar passed away early Sunday morning. Often referred to as 'Nightingale of India', Lata Mangeshkar gave voice to thousands of songs in an incredible three dozen languages.

Starting her career as a young girl of just 13, she collaborated with other giants of Indian playback music scene of yore like Mohammed Rafi, Kishore, and Mukesh. In the modern era, she had successful collaborations with newer generation singers like Udit Narayan, Roopkumar Rathod, and Sonu Nigam.

When she was young, Lata was asked to sing in front of Noor Jehan, the legendary Pakistani singer who left India after the Partition. Referred to as Malika-e-Tarannum (Queen of Melody), she was the biggest female singer of those days.

Speaking to writer and filmmaker Nasreen Munnai Kabir about their book In



Her Own Voice, she said, "One day, I was on the Badi Maa set and Master Vinayak introduced us saying, 'This is Noor Jehanji. Sing her a song.' So I sang Raag Jaijaiwanti. She then asked me to sing a film song, so I sang R.C. Boral's 'Jeevan hai bekaar bina tumhaare' from the film Wapas." She added that as she was singing she recalled her father's words that if you sing in front of your guru, consider yourself a guru.

How Lata Mangeshkar entered films, remembering her acting roles and more

Mumbai, Feb 6: Before she ruled the Indian music circuit, Lata Mangeshkar started her career in the film industry as an actor playing smaller parts to support her family after her father's death. Lata Mangeshkar was named Hema at her birth but her parents had later renamed her as Lata after a female character named Latika, from her father, Deenanath Mangeshkar's play Bhaaw Bandhan. Not many people know that at the age of five, the singing legend had started to work as an actress in her father's musical plays in Marathi language.

In his Hindi biography on Lata Mangeshkar, writer Yatindra Mishra recalls the singer's debut on stage.



Lata Mangeshkar in a still from Chimukla Sansar

"Father Pandit Deenanath Mangeshkar's drama company Balwant Sangeet Mandal staged a play -Soubhadra, based on the story of Arjun and Subhadra. Pandit Deenanath played the role of Arjun while nine-year-old Lata played Narad," he wrote in Lata: Sur

Gatha.

Before the start of the play, the young Lata told her father that she would get 'once more' from the audience like he always did. And Lata delivered on her promise. She later played Krishna in her father's production of Gurukul.

In 1942, when Lata Mangeshkar's father had died of heart disease, Master Vinayak Damodar Karnatak, film actor-director and a close friend of the Mangeshkar family, helped the Melody Queen start a career as an actress and singer.

Lata Mangeshkar had sung a

Marathi song Naachu Yaa Gade Khelu Saari Mani Haus Bhaari, which was composed by Sadashivrao Nevrekar for Vasant Joglekar's Marathi movie Kiti Hasaal in 1942 but unfortunately the song was dropped from the final cut.

Master Vinayak had offered Mangeshkar a small role in a Marathi movie Pahili Mangalagaaur and also made her sing a song Natali Chaitraachi Navalai.

When Mangeshkar moved to Mumbai in 1945, she started taking lessons in music.

Lata Mangeshkar got the opportunity to play a minor role along with her younger sister Asha Bhosle in Master Vinayak's first Hindi-language movie, Badi Maa in 1945. In the film, she also sang a bhajan, Maata Tere Charnon Mein.

Lata Mangeshkar: 10 lesser-known facts about the 'Nightingale of India'

Mumbai, Feb 6: Legendary singer and Bharat Ratna recipient Lata Mangeshkar passed away on Sunday in Mumbai. Known as the 'Nightingale of India', she has left behind a treasure trove of songs vocalised in her mellifluous voice, sung across a career that lasted for over 70 years. Lata, considered one of the greatest Indian playback singers, will live on through her melodies. Her solos and immortal duets with Mohammed Rafi, Kishore Kumar and Mukesh, along with a legion of other prominent Indian singers, are among Hindi cinemas most memorable songs.

Here are some of the lesser-known facts about the Nightingale of India:

1. Lata Mangeshkar was born in a family of performers

Lata Mangeshkar belonged to a family of performers. Her father ran a theatre company, and Lata grew up with a love of

music. The aim of the sisters (Lata and Asha Bhosle) when they took up singing was to carry forward their father's legacy. In an old interview with Stardust, she recalled the immediate reason for her vocation. She said, "It so happened that once my father asked his shagird (disciple) to practice a raag while he finished some work. I was playing nearby and suddenly a note of the raag that shagird was rendering, jarred. And the next minute, I was correcting him. When my father returned, he discovered a shagird in his own daughter."

2. Lata Mangeshkar's first song was removed from the film

Lata recorded the first song of her career "Naachu Yaa Gade, Khelu Saari Mani Haus Bhaari" in 1942 for a Marathi movie called Kiti Hasaal. But unfortunately, the song was removed from the film's final cut.



Lata Mangeshkar with Nitin Mukesh, the son of Mukesh.

3. Lata Mangeshkar once fainted while recording a song

Lata once fainted while recording a song with music composer Naushad. She revealed the same in an

interview with Firstpost and said, "We were recording a song on a long hot summer afternoon. You know how Mumbai gets in summer. During those days, there was no air

conditioning in the recording studios. And even the ceiling fan was switched off during the final recording. Bas, main behosh ho gayi (So I fainted)."

4. Lata Didi never listened to her own songs

Lata Mangeshkar once said while speaking to Bollywood Hungama that she does not listen to her own songs as if she did, she would find a hundred faults in her singing.

5. Her favourite music director was Madan Mohan

In Lata's words, the best music director she worked with and with whom she had a special bond was Madan Mohan. She said in a 2011 collector's item calendar called Tere Sur Aur Mere Geet, "I shared a special relationship with Madan Mohan, which was much more than what a singer and a music composer share. This was a relationship of a brother and a sister." She listed 'Woh chup rahe' from Jahan Ara as their favourite collaboration with him.

6. Lata Mangeshkar served as a Member of Parliament in Rajya Sabha

Lata had a brief tenure as an MP (Member of Parliament) from 1999 to 2005. She had been nominated to the Rajya Sabha (Upper House) in 1999. She described her tenure as an unhappy one and claimed she was reluctant to be inducted.

7. Lata's fame extends way beyond Indian boundaries

Lata was not just an Indian singing legend. The lovers of her melodious voice could be found all over the world. She holds the honour of being the first-ever Indian to perform in the prestigious Royal Albert Hall, London. The government of France conferred her with the Officer of the Legion of Honour in 2007, which is the country's highest civilian award

8. Lata Mangeshkar once held a Guinness world record

The 1974 edition of The Guinness Book of Records had listed Lata Mangeshkar

as the most recorded artist. But the claim was contested by Mohammed Rafi. The book continued to list Lata's name but also mentioned Rafi's claim.

The entry was removed in 1991 until 2011, in which Guinness put Lata's sister as the most recorded artist. Currently, Pulapaka Susheela holds the honour.

9. Lata never worked with OP Nayyar in her career

In her long career, Lata worked with the greatest of Indian composers and music directors, but she never worked with OP Nayyar.

10. Lata Mangeshkar last recorded a song in 2019

Lata Mangeshkar recorded her last song 'Saugandh Mujhe Is Mitti Ki', which was composed by Mayuresh Pai, as a tribute to the Indian Army and nation. It was released on March 30, 2019.

India completes six-wicket win to go 1-0 up in three-match series

IND v WI, 1st ODI

Ahmedabad, Feb 6 (IANS) On the back of a quick 60 from captain Rohit Sharma and an unbeaten stand of 62 for the fifth wicket between Suryakumar Yadav and Deepak Hooda, India scripted a six-wicket win over West Indies in the series opener at the Narendra Modi Stadium on Sunday.

India's 1000th ODI appearance ended on a winning note barring a scare when they went from 84/0 to 116/4 in 17.3 overs. But Yadav and Hooda ensured there were no more hiccups for India, who achieved the target with 22 overs to spare.

Chasing a lowly 177, India made a solid start, scoring 67 in the powerplay. Captain Rohit Sharma and Ishan Kishan smashed boundaries at will. While Sharma looked gorgeous in leg-side glances and drives through off-side, Kishan was eye-catching in his pulls through mid-wicket.

Sharma took a special liking to Kemar Roach,

smashing the pacer for boundaries through mid-on and mid-off in the eighth over. The right-hander followed it up with fours through pull over square leg and a deliberate late cut through third man and a cracking six pulled over square leg.

Post first power-play, Sharma reached his 44th half-century in this format and continued to hit boundaries off Alzarri Joseph and Akeal Hosein. It was Joseph, though, who broke the 84-run opening stand. Getting one to nip in from outside off, Joseph rapped Sharma high on his pads while trying to flick. Sharma took the review but umpire's call on DRS while hitting the stumps meant he had to depart for 60.

Virat Kohli fetched boundaries on his first two balls but mistimed a pull off Joseph and the top-edge flew to fine-leg to become the second big scalp of the right-arm pacer in the 14th over.

Rishabh Pant got going



Indian and West Indies cricketers paying tribute to Bharat Ratna Lata Mangeskar before starting the first one day international cricket match in Ahmedabad, on Sunday, Feb. 6, 2022.

with two boundaries while Kishan continued to hold the fort. But Kishan, in an effort to unsettle Hosein, went for a big slog-sweep and instead picked out the fielder at backward square-leg to perfection.

In the very next over, Pant was run-out at the non-striker's end a straight drive from Suryakumar Yadav was met by Joseph sticking his right foot out on follow-through and deflected to hit the stumps. Yadav swept and played a delicate late cut to pick

successive boundaries off Hosein while debutant Deepak Hooda fetched his first boundary in ODIs with a back-foot punch through mid-off off Joseph. The duo crunched boundaries while stitching a handy stand of 62 off 63

balls before Yadav finished off the chase with a slice through backward point. Brief scores: West Indies 176 all out in 43.5 overs (Jason Holder 57, Fabian Allen 29; Yuzvendra Chahal 4/49, Washington Sundar 3/30)

Yuzvendra Chahal becomes 2nd fastest India spinner to take 100 ODI wickets



Yuzvendra Chahal found his mojo back in India's historic 1000th ODI as he picked up 3 quick wickets in his first spell to jolt West Indies in the first of a 3-match series at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on Sunday. Chahal was denied his first ODI hat-trick but he achieved a major milestone, joining an elite list of India bowlers in ODI cricket. On Sunday, Yuzvendra Chahal became the 2nd fastest Indian spinner after his spin partner Kuldeep Yadav to pick up 100 wickets in ODI cricket. Chahal achieved the feat in his 60th match for India when he removed big-hitting Nicholas Pooran in the very first over of his spell under Rohit Sharma's captaincy in the first ODI.

Chahal also became the 5th fastest Indian bowler to pick up 100 wickets in ODI cricket. Chahal was on 99 when he arrived in Ahmedabad for the ODI series and he did not take a lot of time to achieve the milestone.

lost to India 178/4 in 28 overs (Rohit Sharma 60, Alzarri Joseph 2/45, Akeal Hosein 1/46) by six wickets. Suryakumar Yadav 34 not

Paul Collingwood is expected to be named interim England head coach, says report

London, Feb 6 (IANS) The former England cricketer Paul Collingwood is expected to be appointed interim England head coach for next month's Test series against West Indies. Collingwood's upgrade from an assistant coach would avoid a complete overhaul of the current coaching staff and allow interim managing director Andrew Strauss some breathing space to focus on identifying personnel and refining the set-up for the home international season, dailymail.co.uk reports on Sunday.

As the Ashes fall-out took in the fourth casualty in as many days -- this time on the other side of cricket's most entrenched rivalry as Justin Langer quit as Australia head coach -- Sir Andrew Strauss accelerated plans for both short and long-term changes to Eng;and's management structure. Collingwood coached England in the T20 series against West Indies when all the Ashes touring side was rested for the series. Former England opener Marcus Trescothick was his deputy in the tour as West Indies beat the visitors by 3-2 in the five-match T20 series.

Collingwood did not return to the UK after overseeing an England shadow side's 3-2 Twenty20 defeat to the Windies, remaining in Barbados to have a holiday with his three daughters.

Very good to be back in Indian colours, says Washington Sundar

Ahmedabad, Feb 6 (IANS) All-rounder Washington Sundar said he felt very good in coming back to the Indian team colours and added that getting some turn was a treat for him. Sunday's match against the West Indies was just Sundar's second appearance in the format after his debut against Sri Lanka at Mohali in 2017.

"Definitely, very good to be back in Indian colours. Heartening to get the opportunity today. Bit of turn and bit of slowness to start with was a treat for me. Me and Yuzi (Chahal) enjoyed bowling today. We should be able to chase it down convincingly," said Sundar in a mid-innings chat with the broadcasters after West Indies were bowled out for 176 in 43.5 overs. Sundar set the tone for breaking the back of West Indies' innings at the Narendra Modi Stadium. He got Brandon King to chip a slower off-break to mid-wicket. Four balls later, Darren Bravo was beaten by lack of turn from Sundar and was rapped on pads. Sundar convinced captain Rohit Sharma to take the review and replays showed the ball hitting the stumps. He then completed his three-wicket haul with a simple return catch off his own bowling from Fabian Allen.

Bengaluru Open: Khade creates a flutter, advances to the second round of qualifiers

Bengaluru, Feb 6 (IANS) Arjun Kadhe, who entered as an alternate in the qualifying draw, caused a flutter by upsetting sixth seed Johan Nikles of Switzerland 6-4, 6-4 to take one step closer to gaining an entry into the main round of the Bengaluru Open ATP Challenger. In a clash of two Indians, eighth seed Mukund Sasikumar overcame Adil Kalyanpur 6-2, 6-3 and became only the second out of nine Indians in the fray to advance to the second round of qualifying at the Karnataka State Lawn Tennis Association courts here on Sunday.

Pune-based Khade was serving for the match at 5-3 in the second set after having annexed the first at 6-4. In a battle of unforced errors, he lost his serve and then broke his opponent's serve to win the match.

"I think I served well today which put me into good stead. I did not offer a breakpoint for him until the second set," said the 28-year-old Arjun. "It was tough for both of us as the ball was flying and hence it is more of forced errors rather than unforced," said Khade. The current U-18 National Champion and the promising Karan Singh



began on the right note matching stroke for stroke against his Japanese opponent Rio Noguchi, who was ranked more than 1250 places above him. After

both the players were locked 4-4 in the first set, the 18-year-old went 5-4 up before breaking Noguchi's serve to take the first set 6-4. However, the second set saw Karan slip owing to a nagging back pain for which he even had to take a medical break after being 1-4 down and eventually lost 1-6. He did put up a fight in the decider until the sixth game but caved in, almost without a fight 3-6.

Meanwhile, Jiri Vesely, the highest-ranked competitor in the fray in the main draw, landed in the City from Pune in the evening and headed straight

for practice. "It was unfortunate that I could not make it to Bengaluru the last time around as it was a very tiring and demanding week in Pune (2020)," the Czech who, after winning the title in Pune, had cancelled his visit to Bengaluru, was quoted as saying by the organisers in a release.

"I am really excited and looking forward to playing the Challengers this time. My game is coming good and I hope to put up a good show," said Vesely, currently ranked 80th and had reached a career-best ranking of 35 in 2015.

Proud moment for India, team kept cool minds, says captain Yash Dhull after winning U-19 World Cup title

Antigua, Feb 6 (IANS) After winning the record-extending 5th U-19 World Cup title, captain Yash Dhull on Saturday said that it's a proud moment for India, adding that the team kept their minds cool and remained focused despite England's comeback.

India produced a clinical all-round performance to beat England by four wickets in the final. Shaik Rasheed (50 off 84) and Nishant Sindhu smashed fifties while Raj Bawa (35 off 54) also played a vital knock and helped India chase the small but tricky target in 47.4 overs.



"It's a proud moment for India. It was good batting and a good comeback by England. But we kept cool minds and focused," said

Dhull in the post-match presentation.

"It was difficult at the start to get the combination right. But as time went on

we became a family and the team atmosphere was good," he added. The skipper also credited the support staff for the team's success. "It's great being coached by VVS Laxman sir, Hrishikesh Kanitkar sir and others," he said.

This is India's record fifth Under-19 World Cup title in tournament's history after previously winning it in 2000, 2008, 2012, 2018. The Yash Dhull led side finished the tournament with an unbeaten run in the West Indies, flaunting the strength of the assembly line of next-gen India cricketers.

SC East Bengal appoint Victor Pulga as assistant coach

Goa, Feb 6 (IANS) SC East Bengal on Sunday appointed Spain's Victor Herrero Forcada, also known as Pulga, as its assistant coach for the remainder of the 2021-22 Hero Indian Super League (ISL) season.

Pulga played for Kerala Blasters FC in two spells and helped the team reach the final in the 2014 inaugural edition.

"I am very happy to join SC East Bengal. It's a pleasure to be back in India every time. I know the league and the country well and I have a lot of energy so I will try to help the team and the club in everything they need," he said. Pulga also has the approval of head coach Mario Rivera. "I am happy to have him on board. He has experience in India and it will help the team get better," he said. SC East Bengal will take on Odisha FC at the Tilak Maidan in Vasco on Monday.



U-19 World Cup: All-round India outclass England, clinch record-extending 5th title

Antigua, Feb 6 (IANS) Riding on half-centuries by Nishant Sindhu and Shaik Rasheed and clinical bowling performances from Raj Bawa and Ravi Kumar, India clinched a record-extending 5th U-19 World Cup title after beating England by four wickets in the final of the 2022 edition of the tournament at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium, here on Saturday.

This is India's record fifth title in the tournament's history and came after previously winning it in 2000, 2008, 2012 and 2018. The Yash Dhull-led India U19 finished the tournament with an unbeaten run in the West Indies, flaunting the strength of the assembly line of Next-Gen India cricketers.

With this, Dhull joins the illustrious list of captains -- Mohammad Kaif (2000), Virat Kohli (2008), Unmukt



Chand (2012), Prithvi Shaw (2018) -- who have lifted the U19 trophy for India in the past.

A superb bowling performance by Raj Bawa (5/31) and Ravi Kumar (4/34) helped India bowl out England for 189 despite a fighting fifty by James Rew (95). In reply, Shaik Rasheed (50 off 84) and Nishant Sindhu (50 not out off 54) smashed fifties

while Raj Bawa (35 off 54) also played a vital knock and helped India chase the target in 47.4 overs, with four wickets in hand.

Chasing a challenging target, India were off to a poor start as left-arm pacer Joshua Boyden removed Angkrish Raghuvanshi for zero in the very second delivery of the innings. After losing Raghuvanshi early, Shaik Rasheed and

Harnoor Singh didn't take too many risks and batted cautiously. The duo took India to 33/1 after 10 overs as England used three bowlers, including captain Tom Prest, in the first powerplay.

From there on, England dried the runs up by bowling some disciplined overs and backed that up with solid efforts in fielding. It was Thomas

Aspinwall who gave England the big breakthrough by dismissing opener Harnoor Singh with an unplayable bouncer and ending a 49-run stand for the 2nd wicket.

Captain Yash Dhull, who played a match-winning knock of 110 runs against Australia in the semi-final, then joined vice-captain Rasheed at the crease. The asking rate was not too

Ganguly, Jay Shah hail Team India, announce reward of Rs 40 Lakh per player

New Delhi, Feb 6 (IANS) BCCI president Sourav Ganguly congratulated Team India for winning the ICC Under-19 Cricket World Cup 2022 at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium, in Antigua on Saturday. "Congratulations to the under 19 team and the support staff and the selectors for winning the world cup in such a magnificent way...The cash prize announced by us of 40 lakhs is a small token of appreciation but their efforts are beyond value .. magnificent stuff. @bcci," Ganguly wrote on Twitter. India produced a clinical all-round performance to beat England by four wickets in the final. This is India's record fifth Under-19 World Cup title in tournament's history after previously

winning it in 2000, 2008, 2012, 2018. "I'm pleased to announce the reward of 40 lacs per player and 25 lacs per support staff for the U19 #TeamIndia contingent for their exemplary performance in #U19CWCFinal. You have made the Flag of India proud. @SGanguly99 @ThakurArunS @ShuklaRajiv," BCCI secretary Jay Shah tweeted. Earlier, a superb bowling performance by Raj Bawa (5/31) and Ravi Kumar (4/34) helped India bowl out England for 189 despite a fighting fifty by James Rew (95). At 91-7, England were in deep trouble but Rew and James Sales' vital partnership for the eighth wicket took England to a competitive total in the summit clash.

much but India were under a bit of pressure after that slow start. But Dhull and Shaik Rasheed showed great composure and added runs quickly. Rasheed, who took his time during the partnership with Harnoor, was more proactive

between the two as he got to his fifty in 83 balls. However, he couldn't carry his innings longer and got out to James Sales while going for a big hit. Soon, Sales dismissed Yash Dhull for 17 and helped England claw back in the match with

India at 97 for 4 in 28.4 overs. From there on, Raj Bawa and Nishant Sindhu joined hands to bail India out of the tricky situation. Both Bawa and Sindhu looked in solid touch and scored at a brisk rate, taking India closer to the target.

Legends do not die, they cross over to eternity

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Feb 6: The Nightingale, Swar Kokila, Didi, Lata Tai Bharat Ratna Lata Mangeshkar crossed over to eternity at 8:12 on Saturday morning. But one can vouch, that the voice of the incomparable Melody Queen will continue through generations. Many memories fade with the sands of time, but a phenomenon like Lata Tai can never be obliterated. Never. At such a shaken moment, one is bound to recall the opening lines from another immortal, the Bard of Avon, William Shakespeare's, Twelfth Night where Count Orsino utters, "If music be the food of love/ Play on/ Let me have excess of it..."

Lata Didi's death an irreparable loss: Gunjan Yadav



Condoling the death of Lata Mangeshkar, BJP Jamshedpur Mahanagar President Gunjan Yadav termed it an irreparable loss for the entire nation. He said that Lata Didi was an invaluable boon to mortals by Mother Saraswati. "Today, the entire nation is in mourning. She was a priceless treasure who will be cherished through eternity. Didi (Lata Mangeshkar) may no longer be present in our midst physically but will always remain with us through her thousands of songs in almost every language. She has blended into our souls."

Lata Ji etched her mark in every heart: Bharat Singh



BJP State Working Committee member-cum-Chairman of Sunrise Event Management India, Bharat Singh said that Lata Mangeshkar had etched her mark in every heart through her innumerable songs that will remain to haunt millions of music lovers through time. He said, "Lata Ji was, is and will always remain a legend. No amount of praise will be enough to praise her. Her songs bear the hallmark of sensitivity. The moods she set while rendering songs were incomparable. Her reign on the hearts of people will never cease."

Lata Mangeshkar's songs immortalize her: Rita Mishra



BJP Jharkhand State secretary Rita Mishra described the death of Bharat Ratna Lata Mangeshkar as an irreparable loss. She said, "Lata Ji's melodious voice can never be copied. She was a Melody Queen who ruled and will continue to rule hearts of millions of music lovers through generations."



Rita tweeted, "Your songs have immortalized you. You will remain the only one of your kind."

End of era: Dinesh Kumar



Former BJP district president Dinesh Kumar said, "An era has come to an end with the death of Music Queen Lata Mangeshkar. The loss to the world of music will never be compensated. The voice which won the hearts of crores of people all over the world, will always keep Lata Ji alive through generations."

Great loss to music world: Hari Mukhi

Senior leader of Kendriya Mukhi Samaj, Hari Mukhi expressed deep grief over the death of Lata Mangeshkar. He said, "The death of Swar Kokila, Bharat Ratna Lata Mangeshkar is a great loss for the country and the music world. She has always been an inspiration to all the music learners and purists." Hari Mukhi paid heartfelt tribute to Lata Mangeshkar on behalf of the entire Mukhi Samaj.

Nation has lost a precious gem

Advocate Dil Bahadur said, "In the the death of Swar Kokila Lata Mangeshkar, our nation has lost a precious gem. The entire nation is in mourning due to her death. But her voice will keep Queen Lata Mangeshkar alive till eternity." has been mourned by his death, but his voice will be remembered by the nation till births. Our heartfelt tribute to him.



State Health Minister Banna Gupta paid homage to the Nightingale and Bharat Ratna, Lata Mangeshkar who breathed her last at 8:12 am on Sunday while undergoing treatment in a Mumbai Hospital. The Minister garlanded a portrait of the late singer and observed two-minutes' silence to pray for the peace of the iconic singer's soul.

Tributes paid to Lata Mangeshkar



Jamshedpur, Feb 6: Rich tribute was paid to Bharat Ratna Lata Mangeshkar during a program at Khudiram Bose Chowk in Mango on Sunday, February 6. Members of various social, cultural, political outfits of Jamshedpur were in attendance prayed for the departed soul. They also observed two minute silence. (W-mb)

Dance competition cancelled



A two-minute silence was observed for the peace of Swar Kokila Lata Mangeshkar by Super Dancer Group in Chhayanager. The dance competition scheduled on the occasion of Saraswati Puja was cancelled. The coach of Super Dancer Group said, "Lata Ji can never leave us, she was the centre of love and affection and will continue to remain thus."

Lata Mangeshkar a true patriot



BJM District President Subodh Srivastav and MLA Representative (Business Affairs) Akash Shah have condoled the death of India's legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar, the goddess of music. Srivastav and Akash Shah in a release stated that the country had lost a daughter who loved her country and was a great patriot. The communiqué stated that Lata Mangeshkar had immense love and affection for her country and countrymen. Her songs will continue to rule the countrymen's heart for ages. She will remain immortal in the heart of every music lover.

Loss of precious gem: Kali Sharma



Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha state media in-charge, Krishna Sharma Kali condoled the death of Lata Mangeshkar "Lata Mangeshkar was the undisputed leader of the music empire. Her demise is the end of a golden era in the realm of music. The has lost a precious gem, but her songs will make the world feel her presence. The void created by Lata Ji's death can never be filled."

Kaluram Seva Trust Seraikela

Expressing deep condolence on the death of Lata Mangeshkar, President of Kaluram Seva Trust Seraikela-cum-BJP leader Manoj Kumar Chaudhary said that with her melodious voice, she ruled the hearts of everyone in the country and abroad for decades. "Her sudden departure from the physical world is an irreparable loss to the world of art. Saraswati resided in her throat. Everyone was impressed with her simple and soft spoken nature."

Guide International Radio Listeners Club

Jamshedpur, Feb 6: Chinmoy Mahato, President of Guide International Radio Listeners Club, chaired a condolence meeting at the Club's office to condole the death of Sur Kokila, Bharat Ratna Lata Mangeshkar on Sunday. Mahato said, "Lata Didi will remain immortal and beat in every heart through generations." Members including Murahu Jaiswal, Barun Mahto, Ramakant Singh Gautam, Umakant Jha and others observed two minutes' silence in tribute to the Sur Kokila.

SYM drive, 'Janani Ko Jiney Do' launched by Banna Gupta

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Feb 6: Health Minister Banna Gupta launched 'Janani Ko Jiney Do' campaign launched by Subhas Yuva Manch (SYM) to protect the girl child. The campaign commenced with Jharkhand Health and Disaster Management Minister, Banna Gupta and SYM president and State Supervisory Board member, Paras Nath Mishra.

Jharkhand Minister Banna Gupta was highly appreciative of this SYM mission and observed, "Subhas Yuva Manch, under the astute leadership of Paras Nath Mishra, has been providing relief to the needy through many social services. This initiative, 'Janani Ko Jiney Do', is an exemplary step for the



entire society. The government is taking several stern steps against the termination of female embryo." The Minister appealed to every section of society to join Janani Ko Jiney Do (Save Girls, Save the World) campaign initiated by SYM.

Paras Nath Mishra said, "This campaign has been initiated to ensure the birth of a female child and treat her with affection and respect for such children belong to the tribe of mothers. The girls in Jharkhand will be brought into the folds of

this drive and Janani Ko Jiney Do drive will be organized in the entire state to save girl fetus." Haya Praveen, Anjali Kumari, Amandip Kaur, Shama Praveen, Priyanka Mandal and Nilesh Kumar were present in this program.

Children spread cleanliness message through wall painting

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Feb 6: Jamshedpur Notified Area Committee (JNAC) has launched several initiatives to promote public awareness in cleanliness and hygiene under the Swachh Sarvekshan - 2022. Initially, participants presented their paintings online and the top three among them were invited to the JNAC office and asked to do wall paintings.

The students of St. Robert's High School and a team of Young Udaan participated and displayed their fine art on the walls of JNAC. The basic aim of this wall painting endeavor is to make citizens aware of the need for cleanliness.

The wall painting contest was organized under the slogan of cleanliness and hygiene. Children of Group A from St Robert's High



School, Parsudih comprising Alisha Soren, Pallavi Bala, Sister Hansda, Kasturi Sinku won the first prize while the second prize went to the Group B team that included Neeta Mahto, Amrita Mahto, Monika Sardar and Suman Mishra. got second place. The Young Udaan team was placed third in the wall painting

competition. JNAC Special Officer, Krishna Kumar, in the course of his address said that children were the future of the country. He said, "If children are made aware of social responsibility, they can make their families aware. The wall painting competition was organized among children through

which, the concern for cleanliness and hygiene among citizens could be created. The wall paintings by children stimulate in them to express their feelings and concepts. This factor was considered while organizing the contest. We gave them the theme of cleanliness and the children did magnificent jobs."

Schools in seven districts to reopen after safety review: Banna Gupta

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Feb 6: Educationist and member of the State Supervision Board, Paras Nath Mishra has urged Health Minister Banna Gupta to reopen schools in the seven Jharkhand districts at the earliest. Paras Nath Mishra went to the residence of Health Minister Banna Gupta and during talks requested that schools in the seven districts be opened at the earliest as the future of students depended on this move.

Minister Banna Gupta assured Mishra that positive steps would be taken for the future of schools and students. The Minister stated, "Positive steps will be



taken after reviewing the prevailing pandemic situation. The matter will be discussed with Chief Minister Hemant Soren after which, appropriate measures will be taken." Paras Nath Mishra said that the closure of schools for almost two years had impacted on the academic, physical and

mental development of school children. He said crisis clouds were hovering over schools, students and teachers. Health Minister Banna Gupta has shared the information of schools' reopening in seven Jharkhand districts through his tweet and Facebook accounts.

Body dumped along NH-33 in Mango

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Feb 6: A body was seen in a drain near the Tata-Ranchi highway passing through the Azadnagar police station area of Mango.

After being informed by locals a police team led by the Azadnagar station in-charge Naresh Prasad Sinha reached the spot and the body was pulled out with the help of a crane. After this it was sent to MGM Hospital for post-mortem.

According to the police officials, the age of the person who died is around 30 to 35 years. Ahead of City Inn Hotel, information was received about the dead body lying in the drain on the side of Ranchi. After this the team of officers reached the spot. After about two hours of effort, the body was being pulled out from the drain. According to the police, the



cause of death of the youth will be clear only after receiving the post-mortem report. Seeing on the spot, it seems that

the dead body was thrown to hide the evidence after killing the young man. Police are trying to identify the man who died. (W-rg)

Rs 10 lakh property gutted in house fire

Chandil, Feb 6: Property worth Rs 10 lakh reportedly gutted in fire in Anand Pramanik's house in Jhabari village located on NH under Chowka police station area on Sunday evening. Rs 3 lakh cash along with jewellery, clothes, and paddy were burnt to ashes. It was fortunate that the family was in the courtyard of the house when the fire broke out else a big accident would have taken place.

When the fire brigade reached the spot the villagers had already doused the fire. Panchayat samiti members Madhav Singh Manki, police station in-charge Dharam Raj Kumar reached the spot. Police station in-charge started investigation into the matter. Gurcharan Sao demanded house under PM Awas Scheme from the administration and relief from disaster management department. The reason behind the fire breakout is not yet clear. Anand Pramanik's family has taken shelter at the neighbor's house. (W-mb)

S.Korean prez candidates to register with election body on Feb 13-14

Seoul, Feb 6 (IANS) With the South Korean presidential election fast approaching, the country's National Election Commission is hastening its preparations for the March 9 vote amid a surge in daily Covid-19 infections driven by the highly contagious Omicron variant.

According to the NEC, political parties' presidential candidates have to formally register on February 13 and 14, reports Yonhap News Agency. The candidates' official 22-day campaign period is set to kick off on February 15.



Three rounds of TV debate among candidates have been scheduled during the official campaign period.

Starting from Monday, gatherings of political party members will be banned under an election law. Overseas Korean citizens

who are registered as absentee voters will cast their votes on February 23-28. Sailors will cast their

votes aboard their ships from March 1-4.

Advance voting will take place from March 4-5.

It is not the first South Korean election to be held during the pandemic, but the upcoming vote comes as the nation grapples with a surge in daily Covid-19 cases.

The NEC has said it is looking for solutions that allow people who have contracted the virus after the early voting period to cast their ballots in the March election.

Meanwhile, Yoon Suk-yeol, the presidential nominee of the main opposition People Power

Party, is still neck and neck with ruling Democratic Party candidate Lee Jae-myung, two surveys revealed on Sunday.

According to a survey by the Korea Society Opinion Institute (KSIO), Yoon is leading Lee with 37.2 per cent support against 35.1 per cent.

Another survey conducted by Realmeter, showed that Yoon is leading Lee with 43.3 per cent support against 41.8 per cent.

Ahn Cheol-soo, the presidential candidate of the minor opposition People's Party, came third in both the surveys.

Palestine holds Israel responsible for settlers' practices in West Bank

Ramallah, Feb 6 (IANS) Palestine held the Israeli government "fully and directly" responsible for the Jewish settlers' practices in the West Bank and warned of its consequences on the possibilities of launching a real peace process.



In a statement, the Palestinian Foreign Ministry said that the Israeli settlers uprooted dozens of olive trees in several West Bank cities during the past few days and tried to set fire to Palestinian vehicles in East Jerusalem, reports Xinhua news agency. "The settlers' violations against defenseless civilians, their land, property, and trees throughout the West Bank, and East Jerusalem, are taking place without any punishment or deterrent," said the Ministry. "The Israeli settlers' practices are a direct reflection of the Israeli government's policy and decisions regarding the Palestinian cause," it said.

Measles outbreak kills 74 children in Afghanistan



Kabul, Feb 6 (IANS) At least 74 children died following an outbreak of measles in Afghanistan's northern province of Badakhshan, an official said Sunday.

"There had been pockets of measles cases across several Badakhshan districts, including Kuf Ab, Darwaz, Kohistan as well as provincial capital Faizabad city and its outskirts in the past two months. At least 74 children died after being infected with the disease in Kuf Ab and Kohistan districts," Maazudin Ahmadi, head of the provincial Information and Culture Directorate, told Xinhua news agency.

Most of the children who lost their lives were living in areas without the access of public health workers and local mobile vaccinators. The provincial health officials have repeatedly called on the population to stay vigilant and to consult the nearest health centers in case of children's symptoms, including fever, generalized rash, conjunctivitis, cough and cold.

According to local officials, there had been a steady rise in measles cases in the Asian country, particularly in the mountainous northeastern region.

Libya calls for imposing preventive measures in public areas

Tripoli, Feb 6 (IANS) The National Centre for Disease Control of Libya has called on competent authorities to impose preventive measures against Covid-19 in public areas amid surging cases. The centre also recommended launching nation-wide awareness campaigns against the virus, particularly in eastern and southern Libya, reports Xinhua news agency. It urged the authorities to provide more support to the isolation centres to increase their capacity, and called for launching mobile vaccination campaigns to vaccinate as many people as possible.

A total of 445,876 cases have been reported nationwide with 397,291 recoveries and 6,052 deaths, the centre said. Up to 2,057,141 people have received one Covid-19 vaccine dose while 1,016,493 have received two, and 29,644 have got a booster shot.

Last month, the centre announced that the country has officially entered into the fourth wave of the pandemic, as infections increased significantly.

On December 29, 2021, Libyan health authorities identified the country's first cases of the highly transmissible Omicron variant.

Raisi praises Iraq's efforts on Iran-Saudi negotiation

Tehran, Feb 6 (IANS) Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi praised Iraq's effort to enhance the region's security and stability, referring to Baghdad's sponsorship of the rounds of negotiations between Tehran and Riyadh.

Raisi made the remarks in a phone conversation with Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi, and thanked the latter's efforts for hosting talks between Tehran and Riyadh, Xinhua news agency reported.

A strong and cohesive government and a united society in Iraq have always been emphasized by the Islamic republic, he added. The Iranian President noted that his country is ready for further talks with Saudi Arabia if Riyadh is "willing to continue the talks in an atmosphere of mutual understanding and respect".

Referring to regional security and stability, Raisi noted that problems of the region can be solved in case the extra-regional powers stop intervention in the regional affairs.

He also expressed hope that the Iraqi government would be able to take the lead in a regional initiative to lift the siege on the Yemeni people.

For his part, al-Kadhimi said it's important to initiate efforts to bring views in regional affairs closer, and to broaden bilateral cooperation and coordination in various fields and at all levels.

Moon to preside over Covid response meeting

Seoul, Feb 6 (IANS) South Korean President Moon Jae-in will preside over a Covid-19 response meeting on Monday as the nation is grappling with a surge in daily infections driven by highly transmissible Omicron variant, according to the presidential office on Sunday.

It will be the first time in about six months that Moon presides over a virus response meeting, reports Yonhap News Agency. Due to the rapid spread of the highly contagious variant, South Korea has set daily records, but deaths have remained relatively low.

The daily cases exceeded 38,000 on Sunday and the accumulated virus caseload surpassed 1 million, two years after the country reported its first Covid-19 case.

To efficiently cope with the spread of omicron, South Korea enforced a new virus response system, including an expansion of rapid testing and a reduction of self-isolation periods.

Apartment purchases by S.Korean youth hit record high

Seoul, Feb 6 (IANS) The proportion of apartments bought by South Koreans in their 30s or younger reached an all-time high last year amid "panic buying" over soaring housing prices, data showed on Sunday.

The buyers of this age group accounted for 31 per cent of the country's total apartment sales in 2021, up from 29.2 per cent in 2020, according to the data compiled by the Korea Real Estate Board.

The agency began

compiling the related data in 2019, and the figure for the year came to 28.3 per cent, reports Yonhap News Agency.

In Seoul, 41.7 per cent of the total apartment purchases last year were made by those in their 30s or younger, compared with 37.3 per cent in 2020 and 31.8 per cent in 2019.

The surrounding Gyeonggi Province and the western port city of Incheon also saw the proportion rise about 6 per cent, each, on-year to 36.3 per cent and



33.2 per cent, respectively, the data showed.

The country's housing prices have skyrocketed over the past couple of years, which prompted more young people to rush to the real estate market by taking out loans out of fears that they may never be able to own a home if they wait any longer.

But that trend has shown signs of decreasing from the second half of last year following the government's tougher lending regulations, according to the agency.

Since July last year, the

government has applied stricter lending calculations for mortgage loans to put a lid on growing household debt.

Sales prices of apartments in Seoul fell 0.01 per cent in the fourth week of January from a week earlier, marking the first decline in 20 months, the agency said.

The government expected the country's housing prices to fall at a faster pace amid the lending rules and the central bank's rate hike.

Costa Ricans head to prez polls with no clear favourite

San Jose, Feb 6 (IANS) A record 25 candidates are on Costa Rica's presidential ballot in Sunday's elections, which will choose both the President and the legislators that will lead the country in 2022-2026, with no favourite among the general public yet.

Among the presidential candidates, the country's former president and candidate of the National Liberation Party, Jose Maria Figueres, came first with only 17 per cent of the vote, according to the latest survey by the Research Centre in Political Studies of the University of Costa Rica.

After Figueres were Social Christian Unity Party candidate Lineth



Saborio with 12.86 per cent, and conservative Fabricio Alvarado of the New Republic Party, with 10.27 per cent, reports Xinhua news agency.

Welmer Ramos, the candidate of the ruling Citizens' Action Party, barely garnered 1 per cent of the vote, despite the party having governed for

two consecutive terms. "I cannot make any predictions. Anything is possible," said political scientist and analyst Francisco Barahona.

For Barahona, the election has a high degree of uncertainty, a situation that he hopes will be reversed in the almost inevitable second round of

elections that will be held on April 3 between the two front-runners in the first round if no candidate secures 40 per cent of the vote on Sunday.

Barahona said the handling of the Covid-19 pandemic will also have an effect.

Last month, Costa Rica recorded another 122,317 cases, a record monthly count of infections.

Given all these elements, the country will experience an election day full of anxiety as Costa Ricans wait to find out if any of the candidates will win the necessary 40 per cent in the first round to succeed President Carlos Alvarado Quesada, who will leave office on May 8.

China issues alert for blizzard



Beijing, Feb 6 (IANS) China's meteorological authorities on Sunday issued an alert for heavy snow, mostly in regions in central part of the country.

From Sunday afternoon to Monday afternoon, snowstorms are likely to hit parts of Hubei and Anhui, with 1-6 cm of snowfall expected, said the National Meteorological Centre.

In some areas, snowstorms are expected to drop 10 cm of snow, Xinhua news agency quoted the centre as saying.

It advised residents to stay indoors and urged local authorities to take precautions involving roads, railways, electricity and telecommunications.

Over 1 mn Afghans migrated in 4 months: Report



Kabul, Feb 6 (IANS) More than one million Afghans have migrated over the past four months and most of them have crossed border areas into Iran and Pakistan, media report claimed.

The head of a private transportation industry said that around 4,000 people are heading to Iran on daily basis, TOLO News quoted The New York Times report. Many of the migrants entering Iran are seeking to cross the borders of Turkey and from there go

on to Europe for asylum.

The New York Times said the mass migration has raised alarms in the region as well as Europe about a repeat of the 2015 migrant crisis, when more than a million people, mostly Syrians, sought asylum in Europe.

"Though many are choosing to leave because of the immediate economic crisis, the prospect of long-term Taliban governance - including restrictions on women and fears of retribution - has only added

to their urgency," the report said.

Refugee rights defenders in Iran expressed concerns over the status of Afghan refugees in Iran.

"The Afghan refugees in Iran are facing various challenges such as lack of access to work and refugee identification cards. A refugee is always at risk of being back deported," Naqibullah Rasikh, a refugee rights activist, told TOLO News.

Meanwhile, the Taliban government has said that efforts were underway to tackle the economic and humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan.

"The statistics of the Islamic Emirate show that between 1,500 to 2,000 people are going to Iran from Afghanistan on a daily basis," said Bilal Karimi, the government's deputy spokesman.

Value of Afghan currency climbs: Central bank

Kabul, Feb 6 (IANS) The US dollar has depreciated against Afghanistan's national currency Afghani, compared with a couple of days ago, said the country's central bank on Sunday.

According to the foreign exchange rate issued by the Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB), the value of \$1 has dropped from 107.3 afghani on January 27 to 86.86 afghani on Sunday, reports Xinhua news agency.

The prices of food and non-food items have also fallen down in Kabul's markets.

The shortage of the greenback with high demand in the local market has been reportedly behind the rise in the US dollar against afghani a couple of months ago.

N.Korea cashes in on cyberattacks, upgrades nuke, missile programme: UN

Seoul, Feb 6 (IANS) North Korea continued to advance its nuclear and missile programs last year as it gained significant profits from cyberattacks, a UN reports said.

"According to a member state, DPRK cyberactors stole more than \$50 million between 2020 and mid-2021 from at least three cryptocurrency exchanges in North America, Europe and Asia," Yonhap News Agency quoted the confidential report by the UN panel of experts monitoring the implementation of sanctions on Pyongyang.

DPRK is the acronym for the North's official name, Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

North Korea carried out at least seven attacks on cryptocurrency platforms that extracted nearly \$400 million worth of digital assets in 2021, it added.

The annual report noted that the North kept developing its nuclear and ballistic missile capabilities.

"Although no nuclear tests or launches of ICBMs (intercontinental ballistic missiles) were reported, DPRK continued to develop its capability for production of nuclear fissile materials," the report, submitted to the UN Security Council North Korea sanctions committee, stated.

"DPRK demonstrated increased capabilities for rapid deployment, wide mobility (including at sea), and improved resilience of its missile forces."

The Kim Jong-un regime launched a salvo of short-and mid-range ballistic missiles this year and threatened to break its years-long moratorium on nuclear and long-range missile testing.

Afghan journalists face increasing harassment under Taliban: Media body

Kabul, Feb 6 (IANS) The Paris-based Reporters Without Borders (RSF) said that journalists and media workers in Afghanistan are facing increasing "harassment" under the Taliban regime.

RSF said the threats, interrogations and arbitrary arrests of journalists have increased and these actions are in violation of Afghanistan's press law, TOLO News reported.

According to RSF, since the Taliban came to power in August last year, at least 50 journalists and media

workers have been detained, lasting from several hours to nearly a week. "Threatening to rip out journalists' tongues in order to prevent them from covering certain subjects is completely unacceptable," said Reza Moini, the head of RSF's Iran-Afghanistan desk. "Journalists must be able to practice their profession without being under a permanent threat of arrest and torture. These unlawful threats, which violate Afghanistan's media legislation, are all the more horrifying for coming at a



time of growing harassment and increasingly restrictive rules for the right to news and information." According to the RSF, the

Ministry for the Propagation of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice had also issued a decree in November last year

defining certain rules for media in Afghanistan. On Feb 3, the International Federation of Journalists also raised concerns on the status of media in Afghanistan, saying at least 318 media outlets have closed since the fall of the Western-backed gov in 33 of 34 provinces in Afghanistan. "The crisis has hit newspapers the hardest with just 20 out of 114 continuing to publish," the report read. "Fifty-one TV stations, 132 radio stations and 49 online media outlets have ceased operations

according to the report compiled for the IFJ."

The Taliban, however, reacting to these reports, said it is committed to supporting press freedom.

"The Islamic Emirate is committed to freedom of the press. The media have also an obligation to stay impartial and remain committed to religious and national values," Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said on Twitter on Saturday. He said the Taliban is trying to remove obstacles in the way of media.

Lata's lasting legacy: Lifting lullabies, love-songs, leg-shakers to hot, high-paced, haunting & heavenly

Mumbai, Feb 6 (IANS) In a music career spanning over seven decades, Lata Mangeskar has bequeathed a rich treasure trove of immortal songs that are ingrained in the minds of as many generations of music lovers.

Starting in the black-and-white era when film songs were often recorded in congested studios or even in the open at the dead of night, to the modern-day 'auto-tuners', Lata blazed a glitzy comet-like trail that will dazzle for many millennia.

Her singing legacy comprises lilting lullabies, love songs, love-lorn numbers, leg-shakers, haunting, heavenly, high-paced, both solos and duets, classical and commercial, in multiple languages, rendered with ease.

She developed an unprecedented style of singing -- moulding her voice to suit the particular heroine on whom it would be shot on the screen -- like her male counterpart, the equally legendary Mohammed Rafi did with aplomb, and who remains evergreen 41 years after his death in July 1980, aged 55.

Dipping from the Melody Queen's vast repertoire of music would be tad unjustified and also akin to emptying a jug of water from the musical ocean... but there are definitely a few nuggets that are universally acclaimed and remain alltime favourites of

millions. After the initial mandatory days of struggle starting with playback singing for the Hindi film industry in 1945, she found a toehold with a Naushad Ali composition "Uthaye Ja Unke Sitam" (Andaz - 1949) which catapulted her to the Big League.

Besides Naushad, top music directors of the era like Shankar-Jaikishan, S.D. Burman, Husanlal-Bhagatram, C. Ramchandra, Salik Chowdhury, Khayyam, Ravi, Sajjad Hussain, Roshan, Kalyanji-Anandji, Madan Mohan, Vasant Desai, Sudhir Phadke, Laxmikant-Pyarelal, Usha Khanna, vied for her voice for their varied music for the top heroines or vamps, and she obliged all.

As her popularity charts zoomed, she started to tick off -- literally and figuratively -- all competition from many of the old, established female singers and by the mid-1960s, as producers-directors lined up to ensure her 'all-women compatible' voice was lip-synched by their actresses.

And she did full justice to the heroines and music-directors and their ever-increasing aspirations with a wide range of numbers for the next over four decades, labelled as the 'golden era' of Indian film music.

Some of the ever-hummable, blockbuster, solos filmed on various lead heroines (some vamps, too)



include: "Hava Mein Udta Jaaye" ('Barsaat'), "Chale Jaana Nahin Nain Milake" ('Badi Bahen' - both 1949), "Raja Ki Aayegi Baraat" ('Aah' - 1953), "Man Dole Mera Tan Dole" ('Nagin' - 1954), "Rasik Balmaa" ('Chori Chori' - 1956), "Nagari Nagari, Dware Dware" ('Mother India' - 1957), "Aaja Re Pardesi" ('Madhumati'), "Unko Ye Shikayat Hai Ki Hum" ('Adaalat' - both 1958), "Tere Sur Aur Mere Geet" ('Goonj Uthi Shehna' - 1959).

There are the gems from 'Mughal-E-Azam' (1960) like "Pyaar Kiya To Darna Kya", "Mohabbat Ki Jhoothi Kahani Pe Roye", "Hamein Kaas Tumse Mohabbat Na Hoti", "Khuda Nigehbaan Ho Tumhara", "Bekas Pe Karam Kijiye", "Ajeeb Dastan Hai Ye" ('Dil Apna Aur Preet Parayi'), "O Sajana, Barkha Bahar Aayi" ('Parakh'), "Tera Mera Pyaar Amar" (Asli Naqli - all 1960), "Allah Tero Naam, Ishwar Tero Naam" ('Hum Dono'), "Do Hanson Ka Joda" ('Ganga Jamuna'), "Jyoti Kalash Chhalke.. ('Bhabhi Ki Chudiyen' - all 1961), "Tere Pyar Me Dildar" ('Mere Mehboob' - 1963), "Aaja Aayi Bahar" ('Rajkumar'), "Main Kya Karu Ram, Mujhe Budha Mil Gaya" ('Sangam'), "Lag Jaa Gale Se" ('Woh Kaun Thi' - All 1964), "Kaanto Se Kheench Ke Ye Aanchal" ('Guide'), "Ye Samaa, Samai Hai Ye Pyaar Ka" ('Jab Jab Phool Khile' - both 1965), "Tu Jahan, Jahan Chalega", "Nainon Me Bhadra Chhaye" ('Mera Saaya'), "Rahe Na Rahe Hum" ('Mamta'), "Neel Gagan Ki Chhaon Mein" ('Amrapali' - all 1966), "Raat Aur Din, Diya Jale" ('Raat Aur Din' - 1967), "Main To Bhoor Chali Babool Ka Des" ('Saraswatichandra' - 1968), "Bindiya Chamkegi, Chudi Khankegi" ('Intaqam' - 1969). Then came: "Babool Pyare" ('Johny Mera Naam' - 1970), the 'Pakeezah' blockbusters of 1972 - "Chalte, Chalte", "Inhi Logon Ne", "Mausam Hai Aashiqana", "Thare Rahiyo"; "Aaj Socha To Aansoo Bhar Aaye" ('Hanste Zakhm' - 1973), "Yeh Raatein Nayi Purani" ('Julie'), "Aa, Jab Tak Hai Jaan" ('Sholay'), "Nahin Nahin, Jaana Nahina ('Zinda Dil' - all 1975), "Mere Ghar Aayi Ek Nanhi Pari" ('Kabhie Kabhie'), "Dil Me Tujhe Bithake" ('Fakira'), "Husna Haazir Hai" ('Laila Majnu' - all 1976), "Dil To Hai Dila" ('Muqaddar Ka Sikandar'), "Satyam Shivam Sundaram" ('Satyam Shivam Sundaram' - both 1978), "Jaane Kyun Mujhe" ('Agreement' - 1980), "Mere Naseeb Me" ('Naseeb' - 1980), "Tune O Rangeele Kaisa Jaadu Kiya" ('Kudrat' - 1981), "Dikhayi Diye Yun" ('Bazaar' - 1982), "Ae Dil-e-Naadan" ('Razia Sultan' - 1983), "Sun Sahiba Sun" ('Ram Teri Ganga Maili' - 1985), "Patthar Saavan, Basant Bahar" ('Sindoor' - 1987).

The singles apart, she rendered many memorable duets with G.M. Durrani, Mohammed Rafi, Kishore Kumar, Mukesh, Mahendra Kapoor, Manna De, S.P. Balasubrahmanyam, Shamshad Begum, Nitin Mukesh, Anwar, Shabbir Kumar, Asha Bhosale, etc. and the younger lot of singers who took over after the veterans faded from the scene, over the decades.

Lata first Indian at Royal Albert Hall, loved to play slot machine in Vegas

New Delhi, Feb 6 (IANS) Known as 'the Nightingale of India' 'Swarkokila' Lata Mangeskar was the first Indian artist to perform at the famous Royal Albert Hall at London with the Wren Orchestra way back in 1974. An avid photography enthusiast, Lata Mangeskar initially tried her hands with a Rollei camera, and loves to click when on holiday in the US, mostly.



Company (BBC) published many of such facts about the Bollywood legend on Sunday in 'Obituary: Lata Mangeskar, 'Nightingale of Bollywood' dies at 92', in which the broadcaster compiled many interviews and interactions with Bollywood superstar singer over the years.

A foodie, Lata Mangeskar burnt

her stress through cooking and watching cricket matches, mostly the test series through video cassettes, proudly boasted of owning a signed photograph of Don Bradman, and one from Sachin Tendulkar, she revealed in one of her interviews.

Lata Mangeskar enjoyed listening to Mozart, Beethoven, Chopin, Nat King Cole, the Beatles, Barbra Streisand and Harry Belafonte. She went to see Marlene Dietrich singing on stage, and loved Ingrid Bergman's theatre. She also loved going to the movies - her favourite Hollywood film was The King and I, which she said she saw at least 15 times, and Singing in the Rain. The James Bond films - or at least the ones featuring Sean Connery or Roger Moore - were also a favourite. But Bond wasn't the only British hero to catch her attention, she also owned every single one of the Sherlock Holmes detective novels, writes BBC in its obituary.

India has lost a great daughter, Manmohan Singh expresses grief

New Delhi, Feb 6 (IANS) Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has offered condolences on the demise of legendary singer Lata Mangeskar who passed away on Sunday morning and said India has lost its great daughter.



In a statement the former Prime Minister said, "I have learnt with deepest sorrow about the passing away of Lata Mangeskar. India has lost a great daughter. She was the 'Nightingale of India' and through her songs made an immense contribution to the cultural integration of the country. Her passing away is an immense loss to our nation and the void is going to be impossible to fill."

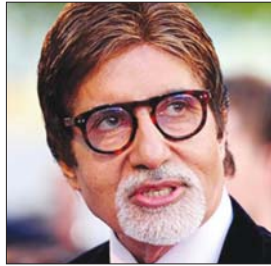
"My wife and I send our heartfelt condolences to the members of Lataji's family, and we pray to God for the peace of the departed Soul," he added. The Congress official Twitter handle said: "The passing away of legendary singer Bharat Ratna Lata Mangeskar ji comes as a huge loss for our country. Her voice mesmerised millions, and inspired people all over the world. Our condolences to her family, friends and fans."

once moved Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru to tears, leaves behind a teary-eyed nation of admirers who grew up listening to her immutable voice give wings to the words of poets and the screen careers of legions of heroines.

India's Melody Queen, who also composed music for Marathi films and was a producer as well, and had the distinction of being conferred with the highest civilian honours of India and France, passed away on Sunday morning at the Breach Candy Hospital in Mumbai, where she had been admitted because of Covid-related complications on January 11.

Big B on Lata Mangeskar's demise: Voice of a million centuries has left us

Mumbai, Feb 6 (IANS) Megastar Amitabh Bachchan has paid homage to legendary singer Lata Mangeskar, who passed away on Sunday aged 92 at a hospital in Mumbai. The thespian described Lata Mangeskar as "the voice of million centuries" on his personal blog.



He wrote: "She has left us ..The voice of a million centuries has left us .. her voice resounds now in the Heavens! Prayers for calm and peace." Apart from the cine icon, several Bollywood personalities Akshay Kumar, Salman Khan, Kangana Ranaut, Ajay Devgn, Kajol, Ranveer Singh, Anushka Sharma, Parineeti Chopra, Priyanka Chopra, Kareena Kapoor paid tribute to the melody queen of India. Lata Mangeskar succumbed to multiple organ failure after 28 days of hospitalisation at Breach Candy Hospital, Mumbai, on Sunday.

Beyond the Borders, diplomatic circles mourn for Nightingale of India

New Delhi, Feb 6 (IANS) Music has no borders. When the world heard the news of the demise of 'Nightingale of India' Lata Mangeskar, condolence messages started pouring in.

"We join India in paying tribute to legendary singer Lata Mangeskar, who passed away today at the age of 92. History will mark her contribution to India's music in golden words. #LataMangeskar #LataDidi", wrote the US Embassy in India in its message. "We are saddened to hear

about the demise of the Nightingale of India, #LataMangeskar Ji. Her contribution to music and her voice will always be remembered. We join the people of India in mourning. May her memory be a blessing. Om Shanti," wrote Embassy of Israel in India in its condolence message.

"Songs are part of the culture, part of our memories. Thank you Lata. #LataMangeskar," wrote Kobby Shoshani, the consul general of Israel in Mumbai. "Deeply saddened by the demise of Bharat



Ratna #LataMangeskar. An institution in herself, she was conferred Officer

de la Légion d'honneur in recognition of her incomparable singing

career. Our heartfelt condolences to her loved ones and fans across the world," was the message of Emmanuel Lenain, the Ambassador of France in India. "Saddened by the tragic death of #LataMangeskar, one of India's greatest playback singers for over seven-decades. As the Queen of Melody, her songs spanned every genre & connected cultures through music. She would be remembered for her lasting legacy for generations to come," wrote Farid Mamundzay, the Ambassador of

Afghanistan to India. "Deeply saddened by the passing away of Bharat Ratna Lata Mangeskar ji. She was the voice of the country ever since I can remember. This is truly the end of an era," wrote Dr S. Jaishankar, the External Affairs Minister.

"An irreplaceable loss to the nation. An irreplaceable loss to the world of music. Bharat Ratna #LataMangeskar will live in our hearts forever," writes T.S. Tirumurti, the ambassador and permanent representative of India in the United Nations.

Health

Want to escape mosquito bites? Wear right colour

New York, Feb 5 (IANS) Beating the bite of mosquitoes this spring and summer could hinge on your attire and skin skin, suggests a new study. The research led by scientists at the University of Washington indicates that a *Aedes aegypti* -- after detecting Carbon Dioxide that we exhale -- flies toward specific colours, including red, orange, black and cyan. At the same time, the mosquitoes ignore other colours, such as green, purple, blue and white. The researchers believe these findings help explain how mosquitoes find hosts, since human skin, regardless of overall pigmentation, emits a strong red-orange "signal" to their eyes. "Mosquitoes appear to use odours to help them distinguish what is nearby, like a host to bite," said senior author Jeffrey Riffell, Professor of biology at the varsity. "When they smell specific compounds, like CO2 from our breath, that scent stimulates the eyes to scan for specific colours and other visual patterns, which are associated with a potential host, and head to them," he added. The results, published in the journal Nature Communications, reveal how the mosquito sense of smell -- known as olfaction -- influences how the mosquito responds to visual cues. Knowing which colours attract hungry mosquitoes, and which ones do not, can help design better repellents, traps and other methods to keep mosquitoes at bay. Earlier three major cues that attract mosquitoes were breath, sweat and the temperature of skin. "In this study, we found a fourth cue: the colour red, which can not only be found on your clothes, but is also found in everyone's skin."

Hard to believe 20-year-old lady is no more, says Saurav Ganguly

New Delhi, Feb 6 (IANS) Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) President Saurav Ganguly expressed his amazement at how Lata Mangeskar's voice never seemed to grow old and jaded in his tweet mourning the passing of the Nightingale.

Ganguly tweeted: "RIP ... Bharat Ratna ... A very sad day for all Indians ... when u speak of talent she was one of the greatest and rarest the country has seen ... hard to believe that 20 yr lady is no more ... well her voice sounded like that everytime ... lots of respect and love ... be in peace wherever u are."

Singer Kailash Kher shared the 'Hum Hindustani' video released last year, which was headlined by Lata Mangeskar, and said he had the privilege of working with the 'Sangeet Devi' for the last time while recording it. He said he was fortunate to have been showered with her



blessings. Testifying to the national appeal of the Nightingale, Malayalam cinema's superstars -- Mohanlal and Mammootty -- joined a galaxy of actors from the South to take to social media with their tributes.

"Deeply saddened to hear about the passing of the musical phenomenon, Bharat Ratna Shrimati Lata Mangeskar. May she live on through her music," tweeted Mohanlal.

Reacting to the passing of the music icon, Mammootty tweeted: "India has lost our nightingale. Cinema and music will never be the

same again. Lataji, your immense body of work and your iconic voice will be unparalleled forever."

In her tribute, Ekta Kapoor said: "May your void be never filled and may your soul rest in peace, #LataMangeskar Ji. We will miss you but your voice will stay with us forever."

Telugu star Jr NTR said: "Deeply saddened by the passing of Lata Ji. A truly irreplaceable loss for the nation indeed. The Queen of Melody will continue to reign in our hearts and minds and inspire a generation of singers."

Chiranjeevi recovers from COVID

Hyderabad, Feb 6 (IANS) Megastar Chiranjeevi, who had tested Covid positive earlier, has fully recovered.

The 'Acharya' actor took to Twitter on Sunday, as he shared that he has tested negative and is back to work.

He posted a few photos from the sets of Mohan Raja's upcoming directorial 'Godfather' and said: "Tested Negative. Back to work & Back in Action with full steam :) Heartfelt thanks for all your love and wishes for my recovery. Humbled & Energised!"

In the pictures shared by Chiranjeevi, he is seen having a deep conversation with the director and the other technicians. What appears as a political party meeting, the set seems to have multiple actors involved in the scenes, which are being shot. Backed by Chiranjeevi's own production company Konidela Productions in association with Super Good Films, 'Godfather' is the original remake of Malayalam's super hit movie 'Lucifer'.

A.R. Rahman's picture with terse tweet speaks a thousand words



Chennai, Feb 6 (IANS) Oscar-winning 'Mozart of Madras' A.R. Rahman wrote just four words in his tribute to Lata Mangeskar, "Love, respect and prayers", on Sunday, but posted a picture that said a thousand words -- of him sitting at the Nightingale's feet.

Rahman has collaborated with the Nightingale for some of his most-remembered tracks, including 'Jiya Jale' pictured on SRK and Preity Zinta in Mani Ratnam's 'Dil Se'. Lata Mangeskar and Rahman shared a mutual bond of love and respect. In an interview some years ago, Lataji, talking about the music maestro, had said: "A.R. Rahman is very talented. I have sung very few songs for him. I love 'Jiya Jale'. Rahman and I came together for the first time for this evergreen number from Mani Ratnam's 'Dil Se'. It became such a rage. And I'm asked to sing that song at every concert that I go to. 'I think he was a little intimidated by me when we did 'Jiya Jale' in Chennai. But he allowed me to do it my own way. And when I started humming an impromptu 'alaap' at the end of the tune, he told me to just go on."

Union Budget lays emphasis on enhanced use of technologies: Haryana Gov

Chandigarh, Feb 6 (IANS) The Union Budget 2022 has rightly laid a significant amount of emphasis on the enhanced use of technologies. Digital Ecosystem for Skilling and Livelihood (DESH-Stack e-portal) is going to be launched aimed at empowering citizens with skill, reskill or upskill through on-line training, Haryana Governor Bandaru Dattatreya said on Sunday.

Startups will be promoted to facilitate 'Drone Shakti' and drone as a service. The use of drones in agriculture will open up new vistas of opportunities for tech startups, he said.

Taking the use of technology in the financial

sector a step further, the newly proposed digital rupee will prove a very important milestone in faster, safer transactions, and cost effectiveness. It will be a big value addition to the ease-of-doing business, Dattatreya said in an article.

In sync with the dynamics of new National Education Policy -- 2020, 'One class-One TV channel' programme of PM e-VIDYA will be expanded to 200 TV channels.

Virtual labs and skilling e-labs will be set up to promote critical thinking skills and simulated learning environments'. The move to create high-quality e-content to be delivered

through digital teachers will add a new dimension to classroom teaching.

For the world-class quality universal education with personalised learning experience, a digital university will be established, said the Governor.

The role of emerging technologies like blockchain, artificial intelligence, robotics, Internet of things and hyper automation is going to be critical for the services sector. These technologies will create new job opportunities in the services sector. Even the universities are increasingly using new technologies for providing the best learning experience



to students. At the macro level, technologies are already playing a critical role in

national building. From e-Passport to one nation, one ration card (ONORC) -- a technology-driven distribution system that makes food security portable across the country - the increasing use of technology is empowering the common man, paving the way for inclusive and good governance.

"During Covid-19, we saw the effective use of technologies by hospitals and doctors in attending to patients online. It is now becoming a preferential mode for doctors to attend to patients instead of calling them to OPDs. An open platform for National Digital Health Ecosystem, as is being envisioned by

the Central government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji, will add much needed resilience in our health system," he said.

Similarly, 'National Tele Mental Health Programme' will make quality mental health counselling and care services a universal reality. CoWIN is the backbone of India's vaccination drive. The use of technologies by the Haryana government is quite pervasive.

The state is moving fast towards paperless governance by making e-governance central to the functioning of almost every department. Auto Appeal Software (AAS), Antyodaya Saral Portal,

CM Window Portal, Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) scheme, and Parivar Pehchan Patra (PPP) are some of the initiatives which show the state government's resolve to go digital in governance in a comprehensive manner, said the Governor.

PPP is a unique initiative, aimed at bringing the entire family under one roof so that holistic benefits of government schemes reach them. In fact, digitization does not only enhance delivery of services and benefits of welfare schemes transparently but also helps us plugging loopholes faster and reaching out to those left out swiftly, added Dattatreya.

FY23 divestment target more realistic, not underestimation: FM

New Delhi, Feb 6 (IANS) Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Sunday said the divestment target set for FY23 is more realistic and she wants to achieve it, and it is not an underestimation.



She was speaking at an event here organised by Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI). "Government or any individuals don't take decisions quickly or hastily while selling things of value... require a lot more attention. And in the government, it's the more. But this question I want to, in a way, suggest we should be absorbing the fact that we have cleared Air India, NINL (Neelchal Ispat Nigam Ltd) has found its buyer, LIC IPO is soon to happen. So, things are moving," she said. "The market may be good and by logic of it, many people may say you should have sold it yesterday but it's probably not the way the government works because at the end of the day I am answerable in the parliament, answerable to the CAG, CVC (Central Vigilance Commission), not just the political executives. The permanent executives are very conscious. And let's not forget some cases have been revived by people seeking justice, whatever, even after 10-15 years of an issue being settled." Besides, Sitharaman added there is a sense of caution and she wants the industry and bureaucrats to appreciate that the bureaucrats should take sufficient time so that that nothing should be later found wanting.

"So, they (bureaucrats) do take their extra precautionary care and I would rather go on that route than push them over to speedily conclude. Yes I am interested in finishing the commitments given in last year's Budget which I didn't specify again in this year's, but we are moving ahead on the divestment." Lastly, she reiterated that the government will continue on the divestment front.

The Centre, in its Budget document for FY23, has drastically lowered the divestment target to Rs 65,000 crore. According to the Budget document, the current fiscal FY22's divestment target was revised to Rs 78,000 crore from the Budget estimates of Rs 1.75 lakh crore.

Debashish Panda likely to fill vacant IRDA chief post



New Delhi, Feb 6 (IANS) Debashish Panda, who retired as Secretary, Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance is likely to be the new Chairman of IRDA, according to sources close to the development.

The IRDA Chairman post has been laying vacant since April 2020. In an unprecedented move, SEBI's present Chairperson Ajay Tyagi is likely to get a third extension for one more year. Debashish Panda's term as Financial Services (DFS) Secretary had ended on January 31 2022. Panda, a 1987-batch IAS officer of the Uttar Pradesh cadre, was appointed as the DFS Secretary in February 2020.

Rising crude oil prices to subdue rupee

Mumbai, Feb 6 (IANS) Rising crude oil prices along with foreign fund outflows are likely to weaken the Indian rupee against the US dollar in the near term.

Besides, the Reserve Bank of India's upcoming monetary policy review will also have a bearing on the rupee's movement. Lately, the global commodity prices have firmed up sharply in January 2022, with crude oil prices hovering close to \$91 per barrel.

Consequently, the rupee is expected to trade towards 75.50 to a dollar in the near term.

Last week, the rupee closed at 74.70 to a US dollar. "Crude oil is finally above six-year's level... It's a lead indicator of global demand and also alarm for rupee at the same time," said Sajal Gupta, Head, Forex and Rates, at Edelweiss Securities.

"Expect the rupee to be weak in the coming week. FPI outflows are also at a high level putting pressure on rupee." Foreign institutions have sold equities worth \$4.75 billion as well. "Higher bond yields post union budget pronouncements are unlikely to attract much capital in next few weeks," said Devarsh Vakil, Deputy Head of Retail Research, HDFC Securities.

"We believe USDINR to trade in the range of 74 to 74.50 ahead of RBI policy meeting, and over the medium term Rupee seems to be headed towards 75 mark."

JM Financial gives 'buy' call for ITC, GAIL, M&M Financial, 6 others

New Delhi, Feb 6 (IANS) The brokerage and investment firm JM Financial has given a 'buy' call for shares such as ITC, GAIL, Mahindra & Mahindra Financial, Welspun India, Apollo Tyres, Blue Star, V Guard Industries, JK Lakshmi Cement and Somany Ceramics.

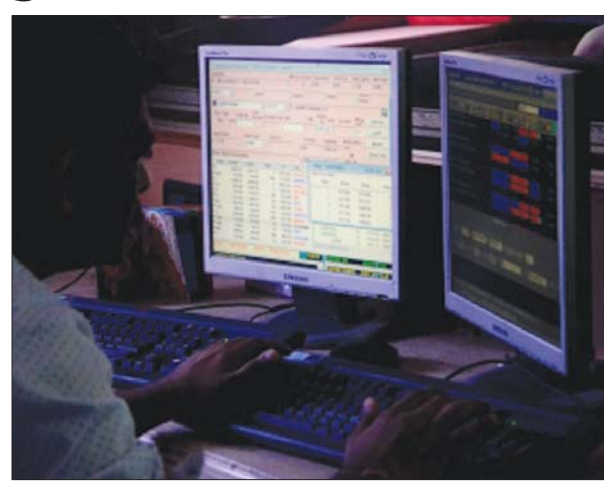
For ITC stocks, the brokerage has set a target price at Rs 295, as against the current price of Rs Rs 233.6.

"With the government maintaining a benign stance

in Budget 2022, we believe the stage is well-set for ITC's FY23E to be one of the stronger years in recent times on growth fronts," the brokerage said.

For GAIL and Mahindra & Mahindra Financial, the target is set at Rs 185 and Rs 200, respectively. On Friday, these two shares settled at Rs 146.65 and Rs 154.15, respectively, data showed.

For Welspun India, Apollo Tyres, Blue Star, V Guard Industries, JK Lakshmi Cement, and Somany Ceramics, the



targets are Rs 188, Rs 330, Rs 1,100, Rs 290, and Rs

710, and Rs 1,100, respectively.

For new-age stocks such as Nykaa, Zomato and Policybazaar which declined in the recent sessions, the brokerage believes that the longer-term growth story remains intact with sound company fundamentals and strong balance sheets positioned perfectly to leverage Indian government's focus on digital inclusion.

"We also postulate that the primary impact due to the policy tightening scenario from central banks

would be in the form of a rise in cost of capital with growth metrics sustaining thanks to the differentiated positioning carved out by these players in their respective verticals."

It believes that the valuation premiums that these stocks have traded in comparison to their traditional peers as well as global tech peers might decline marginally but will continue to subsist in the medium to longer term period as risk-reward ratio seems to be in favour at current valuations.

Local Circles survey shows two-third Indians believe Budget positive for economy

New Delhi, Feb 6 (IANS) A survey conducted by community platform LocalCircles to understand how Budget 2022 would benefit India, found that two out of every three Indians believe the Budget will have a positive impact on the economy.

Taxation of digital assets was also welcomed by the people.

With the government announcing that the RBI will launch its own digital currency and gains from the sale of any digital assets will be taxed along with TDS to track all digital sales transactions, the survey sought to understand if citizens supported these moves.

On digital assets, 58 per cent respondents supported the proposed launch of the



RBI's digital currency, whereas 54 per cent supported taxation on digital assets.

However, no relief on personal tax has made some sections of the people upset, the survey revealed.

Also, 48 per cent of the respondents believed that the Budget allocation on health was not sufficient to handle the pandemic. The Centre has increased the

capex target by 35.4 per cent from Rs 5.54 lakh crore to Rs 7.50 lakh crore, the social media platform said quoting Budget document.

The survey received more than 40,000 responses from citizens residing in 342 districts of India. Of the total responses, 66 per cent of respondents were men while 34 per cent of respondents were women.

Bank of Baroda's Q3 net profit doubles to over Rs 2K cr YoY

Mumbai, Feb 6 (IANS) Bank of Baroda on Saturday reported that its standalone net profit for the third quarter of FY22 doubled on a year-on-year basis.

Accordingly, the net profit rose to Rs 2,197 crore from Rs 1,061 crore during the corresponding period of the previous fiscal. The lending major's net interest income grew by 14.38 per cent to Rs 8,552 crore during the quarter ended December 31, 2021, compared to Rs 7,477 crore in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal. The consolidated net profit stood at Rs 2,464 crore in Q3FY22 as against Rs 1,196 crore in Q3FY21. The bank's gross NPA reduced to Rs 55,997 crore in Q3FY22 from Rs 63,182 crore in Q3FY21, while its gross NPA ratio improved to 7.25 per cent in Q3FY22 from 8.48 per cent in Q3FY21. The net NPA ratio of the bank improved to 2.25 per cent in Q3FY22 as compared to 2.83 per cent in Q2FY22.



SBI Q3FY22 YoY net profit up 62% at over Rs 8k cr



Mumbai, Feb 6 (IANS) Lending major State Bank of India (SBI) on Saturday reported its highest quarterly net profit at Rs 8,432 crore in Q3FY22.

Accordingly, the net profit represents an increase of 62.27 per cent rise on YoY basis.

The bank had reported a net profit of Rs 5,196 crore during the corresponding period of the previous fiscal. Besides, the lending major's net interest income grew by 6.48 per cent to Rs 30,687 crore during the quarter ended December 31, 2021, compared to Rs 28,820 crore in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal. Furthermore, the bank's 'Gross NPA' ratio stood at 4.50 per cent, down by 94 bps on a YoY basis.

The 'Net NPA' ratio stood at 1.34 per cent, down by 47 bps YoY, taking into "consideration proforma NPAs as on December 2020". "On an unadjusted basis, Gross NPA ratio is down by 27 bps YoY while Net NPA ratio is up by 11 bps YoY," the bank said.

In addition, its Provision Coverage Ratio (PCR) as at the end of Q3FY22 stood at 88.32 per cent.

AP DISCOMS, rather than acting in public interest, have acted contrary to public interest: SC

New Delhi, Feb 6 (IANS) The Supreme Court in a judgement said, "We strongly deprecate such a conduct of the appellants -- DISCOMS, which are instrumentalities of the State."

The Supreme Court was referring to the conduct of DISCOMS in Andhra Pradesh for purchasing power at a higher rate.

These remarks were made by a Supreme Court bench of Justices L.N. Rao and B.R. Gavi in its verdict on a plea filed by AP DISCOMS challenging the January 7, 2020 order passed by the Appellate Tribunal for Electricity (APTEL) allowing the appeal of Hinduja National Power



Corporation Limited (HNPLC). "The appellants -- DISCOMS, rather than acting in public interest,

have acted contrary to public interest. For defying the orders passed by this Court, we could very well have initiated the action against the officials of the appellants -- DISCOMS for having committed contempt of this Court, but we refrain ourselves from doing so," Supreme Court said.

"We ask a question to ourselves, as to whether public interest, which is so vociferously pressed into service in the present matter by the appellants -- DISCOMS, lies in purchasing the power at the rate of Rs 3.82 per unit from HNPLC or by purchasing it at the rate of Rs 4.33 per unit from KSK Mahanadi," the judgement said.

"Though serious allegations of mala fide have been made by HNPLC, we do not find it necessary to go into those allegations. However, in our view, the present case would squarely fit in the realm of 'legal malice' or 'malice in law,'" the judgement said. "...filed by the appellants -- DISCOMS, are acts, which have been done wrongfully and wilfully without reasonable and probable cause. It may not necessarily be an act done out of ill feeling and spite. However, the act is one, affecting public interest and public good, without there being any rational or reasonable basis for the same," it added.

Outlook: MPC, Macros to Manoeuvre Equities

Mumbai, Feb 6 (IANS) The RBI's upcoming monetary policy review along with quarterly earnings results as well as the release of key macro economic data points will steer India's key equity indices during the next trade week.

Besides, direction of foreign fund flows, as well as concerns over rising crude oil prices will influence investors' sentiments.

Notably, the monetary policy review is slated for February 7-9. It is widely expected that

RBI's MPC will maintain a status-quo in the key lending rates.

At present, the MPC of the central bank has maintained the repo rate, or short-term lending rate, for commercial banks at 4 per cent.

"The coming week will see the outcome of the RBI MPC meet on February 9, and expectations ahead of it and reactions to the outcome could drive markets," said Deepak Jasani, Head of Retail Research, HDFC Securities.

"Nifty could remain in the 17,374-17,879 band



over the next few days." According to Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services: "In the

coming week, RBI's policy meeting will be the major event awaited by the domestic investors.

"RBI may begin its policy tapering with an increase in reverse repo rate and keeping repo rate unchanged."

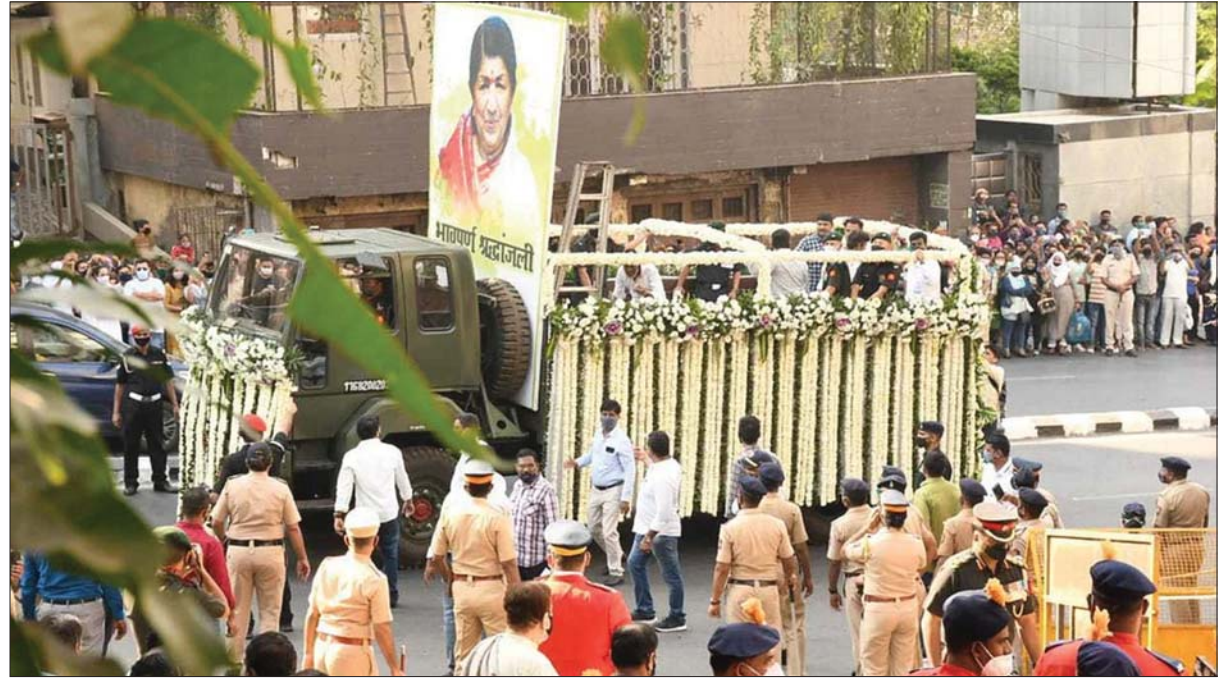
Furthermore, investors will keenly track the upcoming Q3FY22 quarterly earnings results. The week ahead will see the release of corporate results from Abbott India, ACC, Engineers India, Power Grid, SAIL, Tata Power amongst others.

"Q3FY22 earnings has been good so far as companies largely delivered on the earnings front, despite the

unprecedented inflationary pressures," said Siddhartha Khemka, Head - Retail Research, Motilal Oswal Financial Services

"The earnings delivery is highly crucial, in a rising rate regime which is getting well reflected in the market with poor performers getting battered severely."

In addition, macro-economic data such as the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) for December, mutual fund investments numbers and automobile retail figures are expected to be released week starting February 7.



An ambulance carrying the body of Lata Mangeshkar, arrives at her home in Mumbai, on Sunday, Feb.6, 2022. A vehicle carrying Late Mangeshkar's body was seen leaving the residence. It was completely decorated with white flowers and also had a massive photo of hers. The coffin in which her mortal remains were placed was also wrapped in tricolour as the army marched along.

Lata Mangeshkar passes away, Artiste's last rites at Shivaji Park



Mumbai, Feb 6 (IANS) : Legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar, born in pre-Independent India, died this morning after weeks of hospitalisation bringing an end to a splendid and decorated career in playback singing and Bollywood. She was 92.

The cremation, with full state honours, was held at Mumbai's iconic Shivaji Park to honour the singer. Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid his last respects to her.

Around 2,000 sq ft of the park's area has been barricaded for the cremation proceedings, said an official of the Mumbai civic body. People started arriving at the park since 1 pm to witness the funeral of the legendary singer.

Pictures from the late singer's house have been doing the rounds on the internet where her younger sister Asha Bhosle, also a singer, and other family members could be seen joining their hands while the authorities salute the late megastar, as they take her body to Shivaji Park for her last rites.

A vehicle carrying her body was seen leaving



Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrives at Shivaji Park to pay his last respects to the iconic singer Lata Mangeshkar.

Shah Rukh, Sachin pay tribute to Lata Mangeshkar at Shivaji Park



As Lata Mangeshkar's mortal remains are now being shifted from her Peddar Road residence to Shivaji Park for her last rites, several celebrities and family members were spotted at the cremation ground. Shah Rukh Khan, Sachin Tendulkar, Ashutosh Gowariker, Anuradha Paudwal and Javed Akhtar also arrived at Shivaji Park to pay tribute to the legendary singer.

'Prabhukunj', her residence. It was decorated with white flowers and also had a massive photo of hers. The coffin in which her body was placed was also wrapped in national flag as the army marched along.

Earlier, Bollywood stars including Amitabh Bachchan, Anupam Kher, Javed Akhtar, Sanjay Leela Bhansali were among those who visited her home to pay their last respects.

A recipient of the Bharat Ratna, Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Dadasaheb Phalke Awards, Lata Mangeshkar was an icon of Indian cinema, having sung playback for an extensive list of Hindi films.

Lata Mangeshkar attended school only for a day, learnt the Marathi alphabet from house help

Mumbai, Feb 6 (IANS) : On her first day of school, Lata Mangeshkar took younger sister Asha, then aged about 10 months, with her and when her teacher objected to it, she angrily went back home never to return again. She learnt the Marathi alphabet from her house help, who taught the singer to read and write the basics.

"I must have been about three or four when I asked our servant, Vitthal, who was a teenager at the time, to teach me the Marathi alphabet and how to read and write the basics. I studied Marathi at home," she told filmmaker-



Ranbir Kapoor paid final tributes to Lata Mangeshkar.

author Nasreen Munni Kabir, who later adapted these conversations as a book titled Lata Mangeshkar... In Her Own Voice.

Mangeshkar, however, had attended some nursery classes before. "The teacher used to write 'Shri Ganeshji' on the blackboard, and I used to copy it perfectly. I got 10 out of 10."

At that time, her cousin Vasanti was studying in the third standard at Murlidhar School, a Marathi-medium school just opposite to their house in Sangli, a city in Maharashtra. She would tag along with her cousin and whenever Vasanti had a music

lesson, Mangeshkar used to attentively listen to the teacher singing.

"One day, the teacher, pointing at me, asked my cousin: 'Who is she?' I jumped up saying: 'I am Master Deenanath's daughter!' She said: 'He is such a great singer. Can you sing?' I told her I could sing many raags, and rattled off their names: Malkauns, Hindol, etc. She led me straight off to the staff room where all the teachers were sitting and asked me to sing. So, I sang a classical song based on Hindol. I was four or five," the book, published by Niyogi, mentioned.

Mother, daughter to fight against each other in TN urban body polls



Chennai, Feb 6 (IANS) In Tamil Nadu's Tiruvannamalai district, a woman and her daughter are locked in a straight contest for the urban local body elections.

Priya (32) filed her nomination papers from ward 18 in Vandavasi municipality of Tiruvannamalai district as an AIADMK candidate. Her husband, D. Arumugam (42), who runs a banner printing firm, was the AIADMK candidate in the 2011 elections and had lost the seat to a Congress candidate.

Since, the 18th ward in the Vandavasi constituency was later reserved for women, Arumugam, who is currently with the Hindu Munnani, could not contest. This led to Priya, getting the chance to fight the polls instead of her husband.

A small difference of opinion with Priya led her mother, N. Kotteswari (58) to file the nomination papers as an independent candidate. Immediately after Kotteswari filed the nomination, the DMK extended support to her. Priya's husband, Arumugam had lost the seat by a margin of 2 votes to the Congress candidate in 2011 when the Urban local body polls were last held. The Congress, which is in alliance with the DMK alliance, is likely to also support Kotteswari, thereby giving her an edge over Priya, say observers.

TN Assembly to meet on Feb 8 to pass NEET Bill again

Chennai, Feb 6 (IANS) The Tamil Nadu Assembly will meet on February 8 once again as a special session to pass the Bill seeking exemption to the state from the NEET. The Bill will be sent to Governor R.N. Ravi for his assent after he has returned the earlier one.

It may be noted that Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi had returned the earlier Bill passed on September 13, 2021, after holding it with him for 142 days. A resolution to conduct a special session of the Assembly to pass the Bill was adopted at a meeting of ten parties. The parties attended included DMK, Congress, PMK, MDMK, VCK, CPM, and CPI while AIADMK, BJP, and Puratchi Bharatham boycotted the meeting.

The resolution, which was passed by the ten parties for a special session of the Assembly, said, "Getting an exemption from NEET alone will restore the rights of state governments over medical admissions and protect the interests of students hailing from poor and middle-class families.

78-yr-old woman accuses husband, 82, of dowry harassment

Kanpur (UP), Feb 6 (IANS) In a seemingly shocking incident, a 78-year-old woman has accused her 82-year-old husband of harassing her for dowry.

The woman also accused her husband of beating her up and throwing her out of the house.

The incident has been reported from Chakeri area of the city. Acting on her complaint, police have registered a case against six people, including the woman's husband Ganesh Narain Shukla and their son-in-law.

Ganesh Narain Shukla, who has been accused of dowry harassment, cannot even walk without support.

Rajnish, the son of the elderly couple, told reporters that his mother behaves nicely with all family members and she has filed the case under the influence of some relatives.

3 Pak smugglers killed by BSF at border in Jammu's Samba sector

Jammu, Feb 6 (IANS) Three Pakistani smugglers have been neutralised on the International Border (IB) in the Samba sector of Jammu and 36 packets of narcotics were recovered from them, BSF said on Sunday.

"In the early hours of 6 Feb, the alert troops of BSF Jammu neutralized three Pak smugglers who were trying to smuggle Narcotics through Samba International border," BSF said. The Border Security Force (BSF) said a big smuggling attempt was thwarted and 36 packets (Approx 36 kgs) of narcotics, likely to be heroin, were recovered from them. "The search of the area is in progress," BSF said.

Her voice mesmerised millions, says Cong in its tribute

New Delhi, Feb 6 (IANS)

As condolences pour in on the demise of the legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar, the Congress leaders on Sunday offered condolences to the bereaved family. Rahul Gandhi tweeted, "Received the sad news of Lata Mangeshkar ji's demise. She remained the most beloved voice of India for many decades. Her golden voice is immortal and will continue to echo in the hearts of her fans. My condolences to her family, friends and fans." Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra too tweeted, "Her passing away is unbearable loss to Indian Music as she picked all the musical note of the Indian Music and showcased it." The Congress official Twitter handle, "The passing away of legendary singer Bharat Ratna Lata Mangeshkar ji comes as a huge loss for our country. Her voice mesmerised millions, and inspired people all over the world. Our condolences to her family, friends and fans." Chhattisgarh govt announces 2-day mourning in honour of Lata Mangeshkar

20 terrorists, 9 Pak security personnel killed in massive Balochistan attack



New Delhi, Feb 6 (IANS) The Pakistan security forces have completed the clearance operations which were launched after terrorists attacked their camps in Panjur and Naushki districts of Balochistan last week, the Inter-Services Public Relations said in a statement, adding that 20 terrorists and 9 security personnel were killed.

"Both (of the) attacks were repulsed successfully by the prompt response from troops at both locations," The Express Tribune quoted the ISPR, the military's media wing, as saying.

In Naushki, the ISPR said, nine terrorists were killed while four security forces personnel died during the "shootout with terrorists while repulsing the attack".

In Panjur, the security forces had repulsed the terrorist attack after an intense exchange of fire during which some terrorists fled the area.

"The security forces carried out a clearance operation to hunt down the hiding terrorists in the vicinity."

The military added that four fleeing terrorists were killed while as many terrorists were encircled the next day by the security forces.